







【STORY】






I ALREADY TALKED THINGS OVER WITH THE JAF,* PLUS I ASKED UMI TO PREPARE A CAR TO CHANGE. THE NEXT STEP IS TO JUST REMAIN PATIENT AND WAIT TO SEE WHO ARRIVES.
IT'S ONLY 2 HOURS BEFORE THE FLIGHT TAKES OFF!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, RYO-PAPA!? AT THIS RATE, WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!!
成田空港
Narita Airport
35km

*JAF: JAPANESE AUTOMOBILE FEDERATION










WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
THIS? IT'S NOTHING!
SORRY. I DIDN'T EXPECT THINGS TO COME TO THIS.
クス…
IF YOU'RE A DAY LATE COMING BACK, WON'T THINGS TURN OUT BAD?
SHOULD I START HITCH-HIKING?
YOU TOOK A FLIGHT TO JAPAN, DESPITE YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE, RIGHT?
THAT'S NOT RIGHT. HOW CAN THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF W.N. BE SO IRRE-SPONSIBLE?
I'M SURE MY MANY CAPABLE ASSISTANTS WILL FIND SOME WAY TO MANAGE!
DON'T WORRY. IT'S NO BIG DEAL IF WE DON'T MAKE IT IN TIME. IT'S NOT AS IF I'M NEVER GOING BACK TO NEW YORK.
ゴロリ


LAST NIGHT'S DREAM...
HEH... WHAT COULD BE THE REASON FOR THAT?


I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT MY LIFE'S HARDSHIPS ARE INSIGNIFICANT.
LET ME EXPERIENCE YOUR'S AND KAORI'S UNORTHODOX LIFESTYLE...


I STRONGLY BELIEVED THAT MY PAST AND PRESENT LIVES' ATTITUDES HAVE AN INTIMATE CONNECTION...
HEY!
I'VE ALWAYS LIVED MY LIFE BY THESE TWO WORDS: HARD WORK.


...
ピピピ!!
ピピ!!


BUT... I WAS AFRAID THAT IF I DEVIATED FROM THAT PATH, I MIGHT LOSE EVERYTHING I'VE WORKED FOR...


NOW THIS IS TOO MUCH! ALL YOUR HEARTS ARE COLDER THAN STEEL! NOT A SINGLE ONE OF YOU IS STOPPING!
I SUDDENLY FELT THAT NOTHING MATTERED; EVEN TRAVERSING LONG ROADS SEEMS LIKE A GOOD IDEA!
WHEN I SAW YOU GUYS, LIVING YOUR LIVES, EVER SURGING FORWARD WITH GREAT MOMENTUM...
...




RIDING ON THE WIND, CHANGING ONE'S FORM FREELY, EVEN IF THE DESTINATION IS UNCLEAR...
PASSING THROUGH THE VAST HEAVENS... AH, WOULDN'T IT BE NICE TO BE LIKE THOSE CLOUDS...


MAYBE, UNTIL NOW, I'VE BEEN CHAINING MYSELF, RESTRICTING MY FUTURE PROSPECTS...




THANK YOU... MR SAEBA...
BECAUSE OF YOU, KAORI LIVED A LIFE OF HAPPINESS THAT TOWERS OVER MY OWN...
BE-SIDES ...
YOU WERE THERE TO ACCOMPANY HER AT HER MOST CRUCIAL MOMENTS! YOU PROTECTED HER!
OH, DON'T BE SHY, NOW!
AH, THAT MUST BE REALLY HARD TO SAY-
SNRK!


...
DAMN, MIGHT AS WELL SCARE THEM INTO STOPPING...


NOW, YOU'RE PROTECTING KAORI'S DAUGHTER...
NOW I'M MAD!





SFX: PFF




THAT...
HOW COULD THERE BE SOME-ONE LIKE THAT!?


YOU MUST HAVE SOME-ONE LIKE THAT ON YOUR SIDE...
BUT...


I'VE LOST COUNT OF HOW MANY TIMES, BUT IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME MAN
...THERE'S A GUY... HE ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM...
ス...
BECAUSE MY HECTIC WORK IS UNSUITABLE FOR STARTING A FAMILY... I'M ALWAYS FINDING AN EXCUSE...
BECAUSE I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MY SICK MOTHER.
BUT...
WHY?
AND YOU'RE ALWAYS REJECTING HIM...
MAY BE IT'S JUST BECAUSE I WANT TO CREATE A SIMILAR ENVIRONMENT TO WHEN MY MOTHER WAS STILL ALIVE... MAYBE I'M JUST SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE TO SERVE AS MY MOTHER'S REPLACEMENT...
EVEN SEARCHING FOR MY SISTER KAORI IN A DIFFERENT CORNER OF THE WORLD, AND MY WANTING TO ADOPT SHANIN ...
THE TRUTH IS...I THINK IT'S BECAUSE I'M AFRAID OF CHANGING MY CURRENT LIFE...


...


HE'S ALWAYS-
HE'S A CLASS-MATE FROM COLLEGE!


I'M ALWAYS SEEKING TO ESCAPE FROM THE PRESENT... I-I'M A TERRIBLE PERSON, RIGHT!?


...


WORRIED ...
ABOUT ME...


ALWAYS ...


...THAT MAY NOT BE THE CASE, RIGHT?


IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE ...
BUT ...


DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO BECOME JUST LIKE A CLOUD?


THEN LET THE HEAVENS DECIDE, I'M GOING TO TRY MY LUCK !!

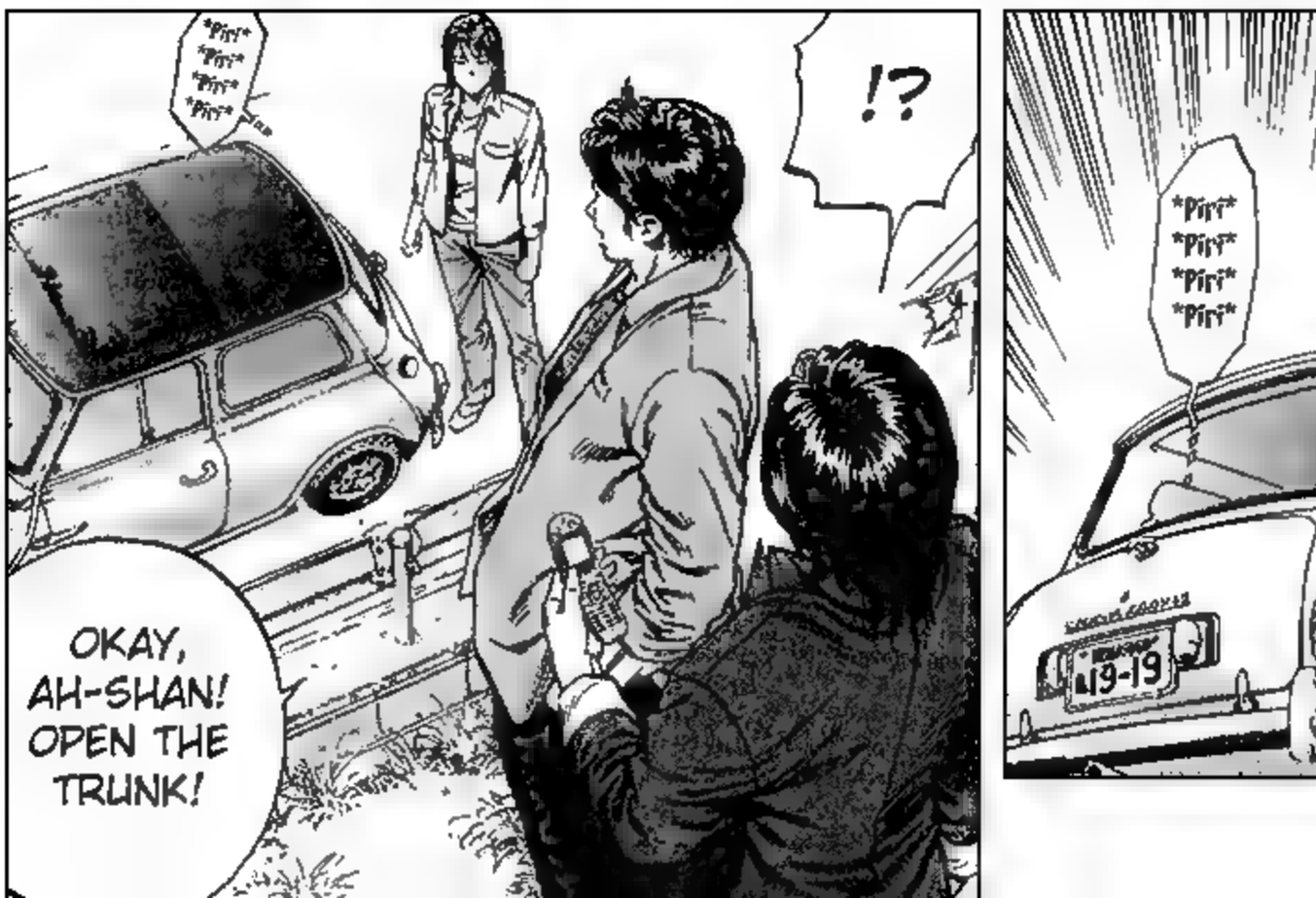



...


YES, THAT MUST BE IT...
YES...


EH?
THERE'S ACTUALLY NO NEED FOR THE INCONVENI-ENCE.
Beep
Beep
Bip
AH... ABOUT THAT...


RRRING
JUST TALK TO HIM HONESTLY.


Piri
Piri
Piri
Piri
!?
OKAY, AH-SHAN! OPEN THE TRUNK!
Piri
Piri
Piri
Piri
19-19


TA-DAAH!
Rrring
OKAY!
Rrring
...
H-HOW DID THIS HAPPEN !?
AH...!
PETER DY!?
Rrring

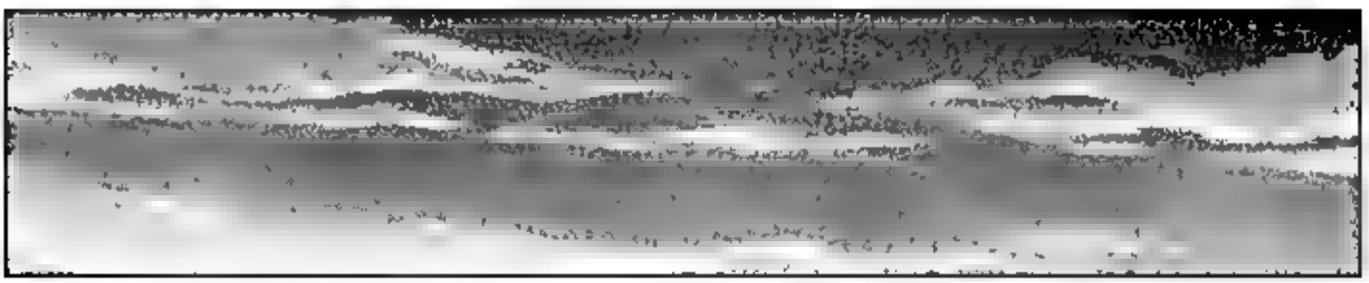

WHAT'S GOING ON, MR SAEBA !?
...
OH, ME, OH MY, HE FAINTED... WELL, THAT CAN'T BE HELPED.

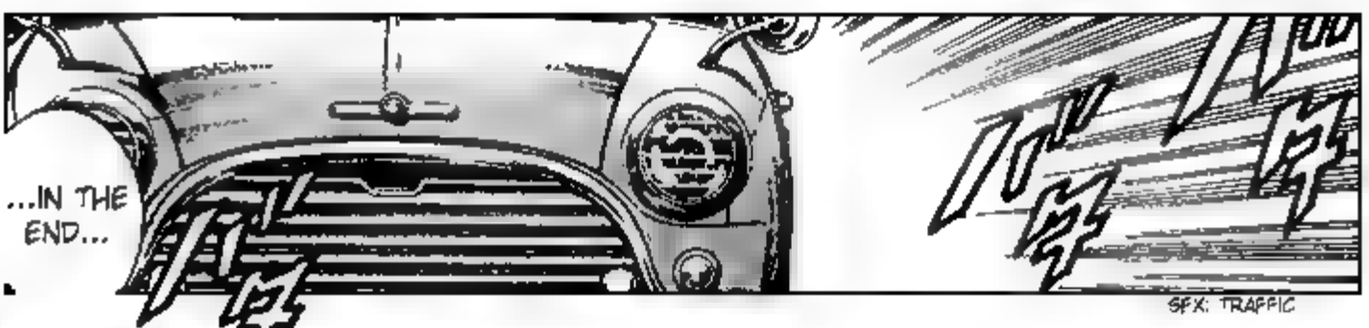

GAH!
SFX: SWAT
WHILE YOU WERE WAITING FOR ME AT CAT'S EYE, HE HAD ALREADY TOLD ME EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU!
HI.
EARLY THIS MORNING, I NOTICED THIS GUY PATROLLING THE APART-MENT...
...
SFX: SHAKING


NOW, ISN'T THAT CUTE?
AND IT SEEMS LIKE HE HAS TO GO THROUGH A LOT OF TWISTS AND TURNS BEFORE FINDING OUT WHERE YOU LIVE... YOUR CELL PHONE MUST BE CLOSE ALL THE TIME, RIGHT?
HE SAID HE'D BEEN TRAILING YOU WHILE YOU'RE ALONE, SEARCHING FOR YOUR SISTER IN JAPAN, THAT'S HOW HE CAME TO THIS PLACE...

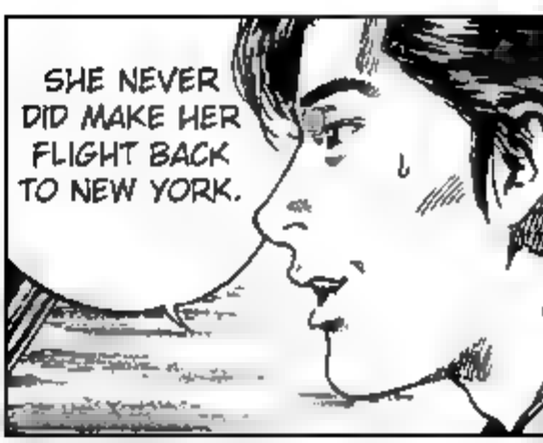

AH... HEY...
HE SAID HE WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU AT THE AIRPORT AND ASKED THAT I PUT HIM IN THE TRUNK... I TRIED TO WARN HIM...
IT REALLY WAS TOO SMALL...
SUCH AN IDIOT...
...IDIOT...
SAYURI...
SFX: GROAN

LIVING WITH THIS KIND OF IDIOT WILL ONLY TURN MY LIFE INTO A MESS, IN THE END...





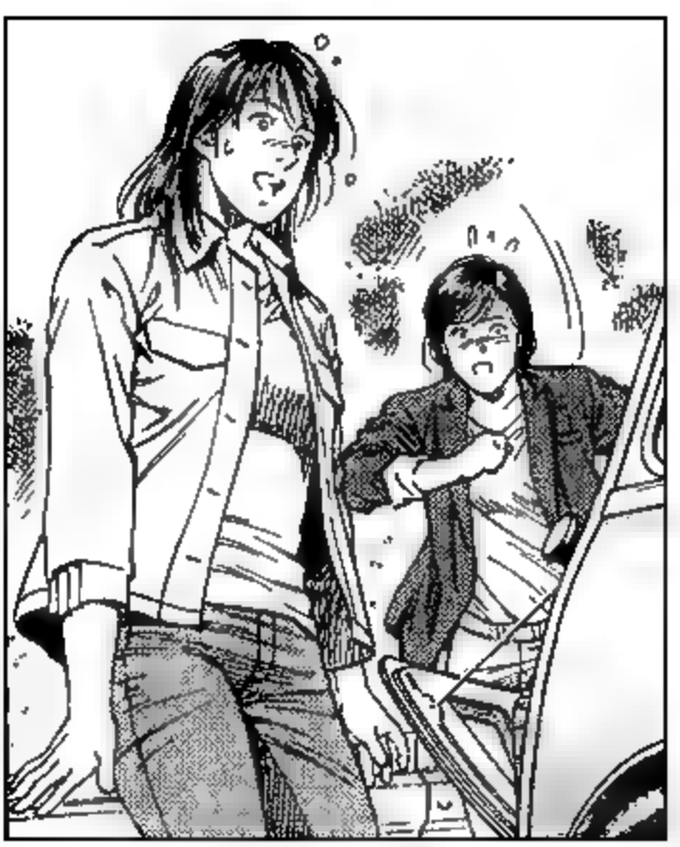

I HEARD THAT THERE WAS A FLIGHT TO SAN FRANCISCO WITH EMPTY SEATS, AND THE TWO OF THEM QUICKLY BOOKED IT AND FLEW OFF TOGETHER!
WELL, I GUESS SHE'S JUST AN IMPULSIVE GIRL!








ブォォォォォ
BE HAPPY...
MY SISTER...



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Chapter 112 Request From a Highway Bandit!?


Gateway
クリスマス
"Ding"
"Ding"
"Ding"
....!
"Ding"
"Ding"
"Ding"
....!



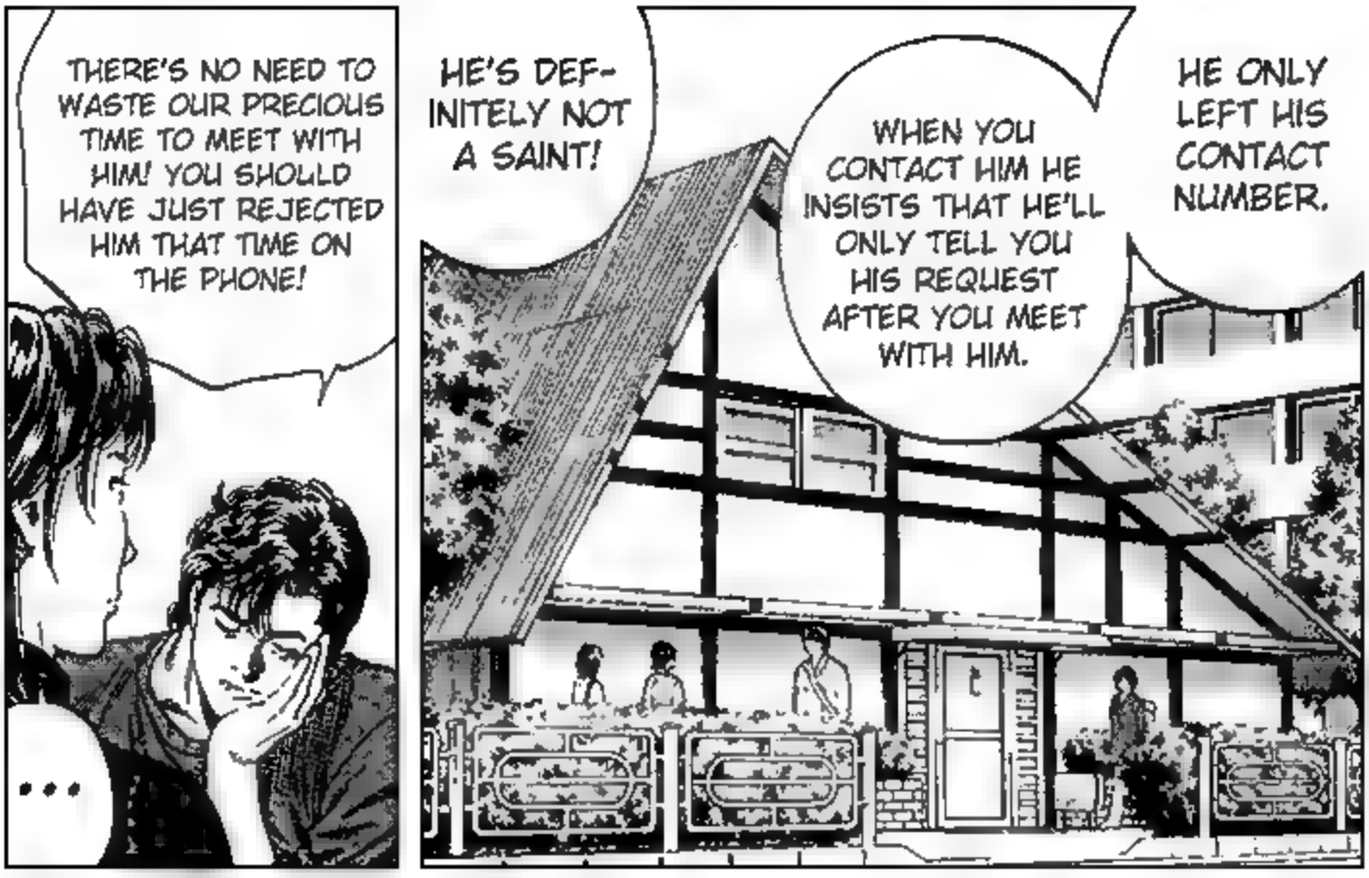

!!


...!!
SFX: ENGINE GUNNING!
SFX: GASPS, MURMERS
AND NOW... TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE... HEH HEH...
HEH... THAT WAS EASY!
Zip


...
MIRIN
MIRIN
Drink
TO...!!
A BABY ...?
X.Y.Z.
BABY.
...


WHAT IS IT?
...
SOME-THING'S FISHY~~

XYZ
BABY!


THERE'S NO NEED TO WASTE OUR PRECIOUS TIME TO MEET WITH HIM! YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST REJECTED HIM THAT TIME ON THE PHONE!
...
HE'S DEF-INITELY NOT A SAINT!
WHEN YOU CONTACT HIM HE INSISTS THAT HE'LL ONLY TELL YOU HIS REQUEST AFTER YOU MEET WITH HIM.
HE ONLY LEFT HIS CONTACT NUMBER.


...
YEAH, WELL, IN THIS SIT-UATION...


YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME THAT, RYO-PAPA.
WHETHER OR NOT WE ACCEPT THE CLIENT IN THE FIRST PLACE DEPENDS ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR PROBLEM.


...
じと～～……
I-IDIOT! THAT'S NOT THE REASON!
SO, PAPA'S JUST UPSET THAT THE CLIENT IS A GUY, RIGHT?
SFX: GROAN
SFX: EEK!


...
HMPH
Snrk


MEETING WITH THE CLIENT WOULD SERVE AS GOOD TRAINING FOR YOU. AHEM!
AH... ANY-WAY ...
SFX: COUGH


...


WELL THEN, I'LL BE GOING NOW. DON'T FORGET TO REJECT HIM FOR ME!
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT I'M SAYING IS RIGHT SOON ENOUGH!
...


WAH!
WAH! WAH!
...?


HOT WATER! BRING ME SOME HOT WATER, QUICK!!!
WAH WAH


E-EXCUSE ME?
SFX: SLAM!
SFX. DASH
HAH!
HAH!
WAH! WAH!
AH, OKAY!
FILL THIS UP WITH HOT WATER, QUICK!
SFX: SLAM, WHAP BUMP!
AH! UH, BUH?
THE BABY
WAH! WAH!
WH-WHAT !?
HEY, OLD MAN! HELP ME OUT WITH THE LITTLE GUY A SEC, OKAY!?


THIS IS HOT! BOIL-ING HOT!!
AH, HOT !!!
HERE'S YOUR HOT WATER.
SFX: CRASH, CLATTER
SFX: GRAB
I-I'M SORRY!
WAH WAH
YOU MORON! DID YOU WANT THE BABY TO DRINK BOILING WATER!? THE TEMPERATURE SHOULD BE LUKE-WARM FOR IT TO BE SUITABLE!
EH...
THAT... MUST HAVE STARTLED YOU GUYS... I'M THE ONE WHO ASKED FOR YOUR HELP: AIDA KUNIO.
S-SORRY ABOUT THAT...
...
Nuk *Nuk*
SFX: WHEW


E-EXCUSE ME, MR KUNIO...
SHE CRIES WHEN SHE'S HUNGRY, SHE CRIES WHEN SHE SHITS HERSELF. I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE WANTS ME TO DO. OH! RECENTLY I GOT THE IDEA THAT, DAY OR NIGHT, EVERY 3 HOURS, SHE'D CRY TO SAY SHE'S HUNGRY. I'VE ALREADY GOT SERIOUS SLEEP DEPRIVIATION, AND THEN...
I'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF HIM ALONE! AND I CAN'T EVEN RELAX FOR A SECOND, EVERY DAY FEELS LIKE GOING TO WAR!
IT'S A REALLY DIFFICULT MATTER TO BRING UP...
AH, HOW DO I SAY THIS..
AH! AHH ...
WHAT, EXACTLY, IS YOUR REQUEST ?
DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS! I'M STILL A BACHELOR!
FROM WHAT I'M SEEING, YOU'RE NOT ALL THAT DEPENDABLE.
SO... YOU WANT US TO FIND YOUR MISSING WIFE, RIGHT?


AND THIS KID WAS, UH, STOLEN DURING ONE OF MY, ER, 'OPERATIONS' ...
I'M JUST A HIGHWAY BANDIT...
I JUST WANT TO FIND THIS KID'S PARENTS.
THE TRUTH IS, ER... THIS, EH...
...?
EH... HEH HEH HEH...
...
... DEAD?
MIRIN
MIRIN
Drink
Nuk *Nuk*


WAAAH
IS SHE DEAD?
SCREW THIS! I AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH THIS!
...
NO TIME TO FEEL RELIEVED! GOTTA MAKE MYSELF SCARCE!
SFX: ENGINE REVVING
OH, SHE'S STILL ALIVE ...
GOOD!
WAH! WAH!
GAH... THIS DOESN'T REALLY CONCERN ME...
...
Wah! Wah! Wah!
Wah! Wah!


THIEF! THIEF!!
SFX: ALARMS
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THESE THINGS!?
I... I COULDN'T JUST LEAVE HER THERE ...
BUT IT'S BEEN A FEW DAYS NOW, AND THERE'S BEEN NO REPORT OF THE BABY'S DISAPPEAR-ANCE...
IF THIS GOES ON, I'LL GET CHARGED WITH ABDUCTION, SO I HAVE TO THINK OF SOME WAY TO TAKE CARE OF THE SITUATION ..
GU QIE HAD BEEN TAKING CARE OF HER IN HIS APART-MENT, BUT ...
COME ON! DRINK THIS QUICK!
WAH! WAH!
AND STILL NO INSIDE INFO FROM THE JU GANG, EITHER... THE POLICE HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY SIMILAR CASES, EITHER ...
I'M A PRETTY WELL-CON-NECTED GUY TOO!
HAH...
SFX: FWAP


WHAT ARE YOUR PARENTS THINKING?
WHAT SHOULD I DO, HUH?
THAT MAY BE THE CASE, BUT I CAN'T JUST TAKE THE LITTLE GIRL TO THE POLICE... AH...
SFX: RUSTLE

HAH ...
SFX: SIGH


...
PLEASE! I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BUT GETTING HER BACK TO HER PARENTS' SIDE! WILL YOU PLEASE ACCEPT?
SEE? WHAT DID I TELL YOU? ISN'T THIS A TROUBLE-SOME RE-QUEST.
THERE MUST BE A REASON AS TO WHY THERE'S NO NEWS OF THIS BABY'S ABDUCTION. THIS KID... EVEN IF WE WERE TO FIND HER PARENTS, WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME!


SO, SHE'S ABAN-DONED...
HEY! YOU MEAN YOU WANT ME TO TAKE CARE OF HER!?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT... ABANDONED BABIES COULD BE TAKEN TO THE POLICE FOR CUS-TODY, THAT WAY YOU CAN SOLVE ALL YOUR PROBLEMS!
LET'S GO, AH-SHAN!
...NO!
...
IF WE WERE TO TAKE HER TO THE POLICE... SHE'D BE PUT IN AN ORPHANAGE, RIGHT? I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN...!
BUT HER PARENTS ARE NO GOOD! USING COMMON SENSE, WHO WOULD PUT THEIR CHILD IN A SUITCASE WHILE GOING OUT?
FOR THIS CHILD'S FUTURE . SHE NEEDS PARENTS, RIGHT?
I'LL DO MY BEST TO CONVINCE HER PARENTS! I'M NOT...
THEY PLANNED TO ABANDON THE BABY IN THE FIRST PLACE! IF WE RETURN THE CHILD TO PARENTS THAT IRRESPONSIBLE, CAN WE REALLY SAY WE'RE LOOKING OUT FOR HER BEST INTERESTS?


THIS KID... REMINDS ME OF MY OWN PAST ...
...
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE ALSO ...
MR KUNIO ...
...
WAH!
AH!
WAH! WAH!
THAT I WOULD DEFINITELY FIND HER BIRTH PARENTS!
I MADE A PROMISE TO THIS KID!!
HAH!
HAH!
THAT'S WHY... I ALREADY TRIED TO ABANDON HER...
AND MAKES ME EXTREMELY NERVOUS...
SHE DOESN'T STOP CRYING AT NIGHT... SHE BOTHERS EVERY-ONE ELSE IN THE APARTMENTS...


Ahh...
TAKE CARE.
SOMEONE WILL FIND YOU SOON IF I LEAVE YOU HERE ...
HAH!
HAH!
Ah ha ha!
Ah ha ha!
FOR A GUY LIKE ME...?
WHY ARE YOU SMILE-ING.
AND... WHY NOW... YOUR FIRST TIME SMILING ...?
Ha ha!
DON'T YOU REALIZE I'M GOING TO LEAVE YOU HERE!?
W-WHAT!? WHAT ARE YOU SMILING FOR ALL OF A SUDDEN !?


HAH ...
SO LET'S STAY TOGETHER ...
AND CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS, ALRIGHT?
SFX. HUG!
JUST THINK OF IT AS A GIFT... MY CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOU...
I'M GOING TO FIND YOUR PARENTS... REALLY! UNTIL THEN ..
BECAUSE I WANT HER PARENTS TO SEE HER SMILING FACE FOR THEMSELVES...
AND I WANT THEM TO FEEL REMORSE OVER ABANDONING THEIR DAUGHTER...!
...
SFX. PFF
ふっ？


WAH
WAH

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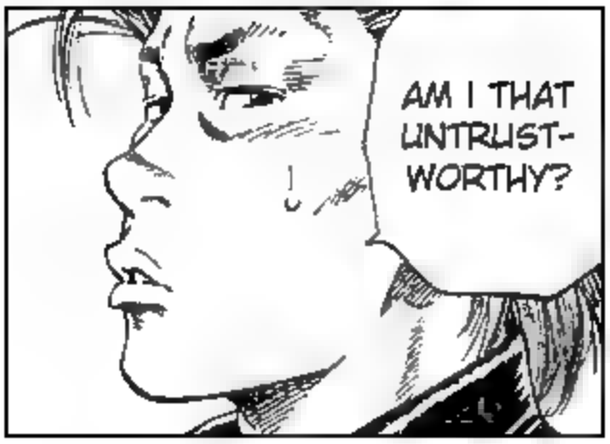
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Chapter 113 Tea Pot Baby!




SO WHAT, YOU'RE HERE TO BE MY MINDER, RIGHT?


AM I THAT UNTRUST-WORTHY?


...
2F


HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF ANYONE WHO TRUSTS BANDITS?

SWEET DREAMS!

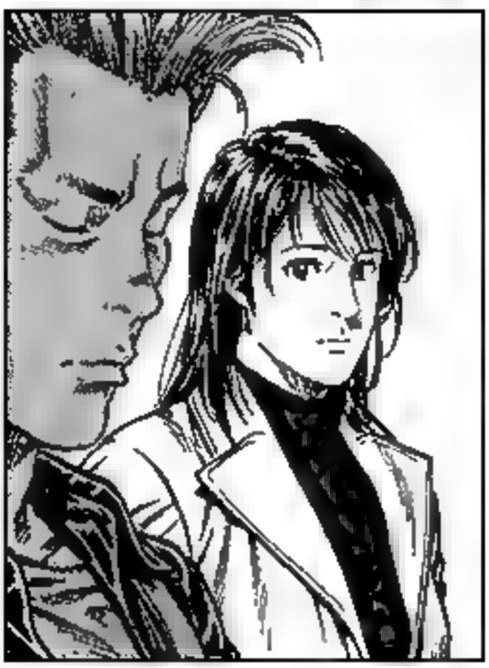

Che
THE TRUTH IS... I'M NOT DOING IT FOR THE KID!
DIDN'T THINK YOU'D ACCEPT THE KID'S REQUEST... RYO...


I'M DOING IT FOR THAT FUTURE SENSUAL BEAUTY!
THAT KUNIO GUY PICKED UP A LITTLE GIRL, AND IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SHE BECOMES A BONAFIED HOTTIE! HOW COULD I ALLOW SUCH A SAD FATE TO BEFALL HER!? MY REPUTATION WOULD BE RUINED!
...HMPH!
?
IF HE BREAKS THE AGREEMENT, HIS REQUEST IS ALSO NULL AND VOID.
THAT'S WHY I ASKED AH-SHAN TO ACCOMPANY HIM.
ASKING A BANDIT TO STOP STEALING FOR A WEEK TO TAKE CARE OF A CHILD... ISN'T THAT ASKING A BIT MUCH?
BUT WILL KUNIO KEEP HIS END OF THE BARGAIN?
SHANIN WOULDN'T FALL FOR THAT KIND OF GUY! PLUS, HE WOULDNT BE A SUITABLE PARTNER FOR HER, I'M SURE OF IT!
?!
DON'T DENY IT.
DOES SHANIN ACCOMPANYING ANOTHER MAN MAKE YOU UNEASY?
N-NO! THAT'S NOT ANYWHERE CLOSE TO RIGHT!
BUT...
SFX: HMPH!


AFTER THAT, SINCE SHE NEEDS MILK AND CLOTHES... AND SINCE I'VE GOT NO MONEY, I'M FORCED TO...
TO TELL THE TRUTH, STEALING THIS BABY IS MY FIRST OFFENSE...


EVEN THOUGH I'M A... BANDIT... I'M STILL NEW TO IT!






CHE! IN ANY CASE, SINCE I WAS BORN, MY LIFE'S BEEN A HOLLOW EXIST-ENCE!


YOU'RE LUCKY... FIRST DAY ON THE JOB AND YOU ALREADY WON THE GRAND PRIZE....
Yaah!


THAT'S RIGHT! I DON'T HAVE ANY PARENTS!
DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU'RE-


AIDA, DIDN'T YOU SAY THIS BABY WAS JUST LIKE YOU?




IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
WHAT CHRISTMAS? HOW RIDICULOUS!


BEFORE I WAS OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER, MY PARENTS DISAPPEARED AND LEFT ME ON MY OWN ...
...
SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN KICKED AROUND FROM ONE RELATIVE TO ANOTHER, AND EVERY ONE REGARDED ME AS BAGGAGE...




I COULD'VE GOTTEN... A DECENT CHRISTMAS PRESENT...

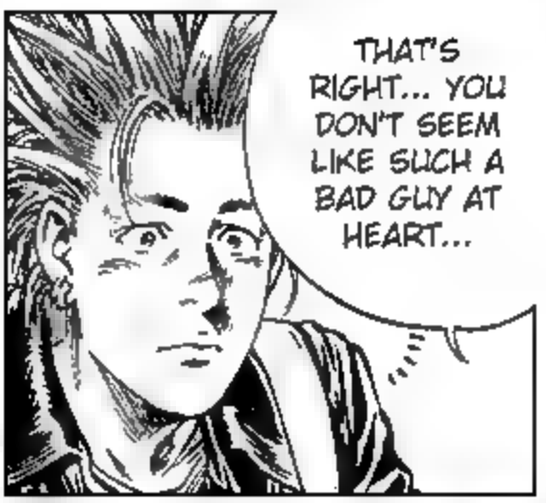

IF THAT DUFFEL BAG HADN'T CONTAINED A BABY, BUT SOMETHING WORTH SOME MONEY, I COULD HAVE CELEBRATED CHRISTMAS LIKE A NORMAL PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME!
DAMN YOU...!


YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND !?


WH-WHO!? IT'S... UH...
A PRESENT? FOR WHO ...?
IT'S FOR... MY GIRL-FRIEND...


DON'T SOUND SO SHOCKED! ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT!?


SHE MUST BE A GOOD PERSON FOR YOU TO BE LIKE THIS...
OTHER-WISE, YOU WOULDN'T BE LOOKING AFTER THIS BABY SO DEVOTED-LY...

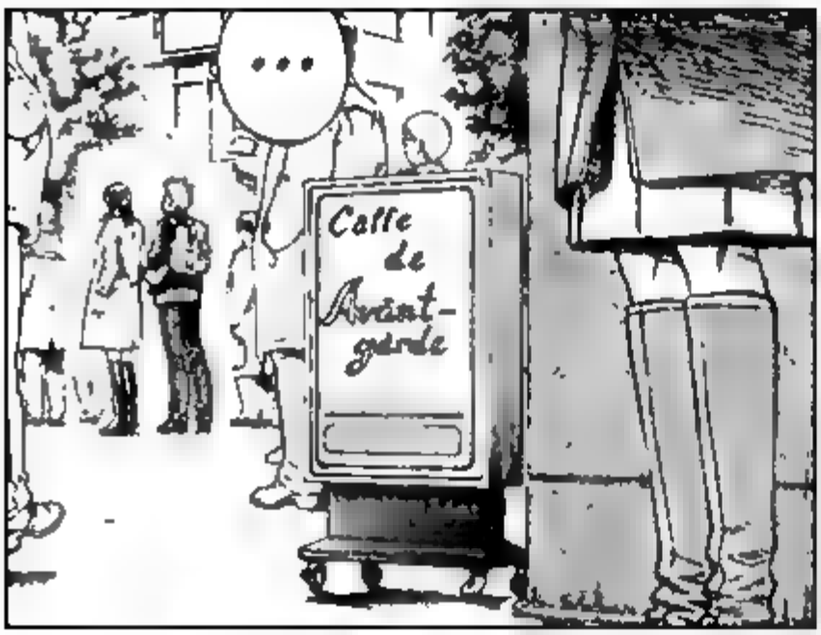

THAT'S RIGHT... YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE SUCH A BAD GUY AT HEART...


I GUESS NOT EVERY-ONE HITS THE LOTTERY...
...


EVEN IF SHE'S AN OLDER WOMAN
UH, YEAH, SHE'S WAY TOO GOOD FOR ME... AKINA IS ...
AKINA, HUH?



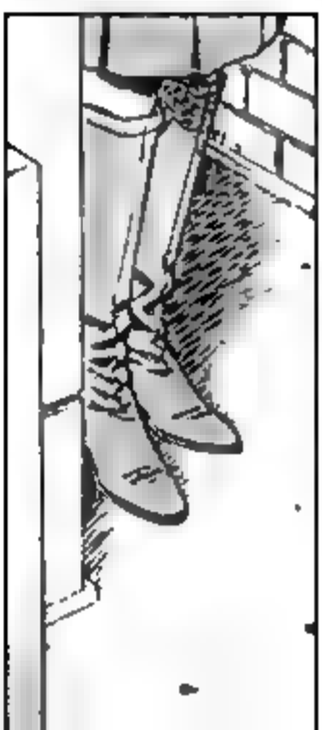

Merry Christmas
YEAH!
YOU... YOU THINK SO...?


...
Caffe de Avant-garde



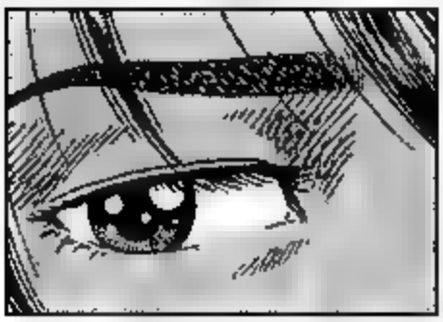

SFX HMM


WOW... THIS PLACE CLEANED UP UNEXPECT-EDLY WELL, DIDN'T IT?




ﾊｽ...

SFX: HMML




WOAH...
BUT THE SITUATION DEMANDS IT! IF THE ROOM'S A MESS, THE BABY COULD GET HURT CRAWLING AROUND!
DON'T STARE AT ME LIKE THAT... I KNOW THIS ROOM DOESN'T FIT MY PERSON-ALITY.


Klik


SHH!
...?


HEY, HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING ON SPACING OUT AT THE DOOR?


VLAK


...


...!
...AH!
...NO, I DON'T RECOG-NIZE HER...
COULD THIS BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND, AKINA?
MY BABY ...
IT REALLY IS...
BABY...


I'VE SEEN YOU ON THE STREETS THESE PAST FEW DAYS...
I WAS VERY SURPRISED, BECAUSE YOU WERE CRADLING MY BABY IN YOUR ARMS ...
Oh~~
BUT I COULDN'T AFFORD AN ABORTION, SO I HAD THE BABY IN SECRET AND RAISED HER WITHOUT MY MANAGER KNOWING.
...
BUT AFTER A WHILE, WE WERE DISCOVERED. MY MANAGER FLEW INTO A RAGE, SAID THE CHILD SHOULD BE ABANDONED AND SNATCHED HER FROM MY ARMS..
SO I FOLLOWED YOU ..
I WAS HESITATING, AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
SO THAT MEANS THIS BABY REALLY IS YOURS!?
I'M CHINESE, AND CAME TO WORK HERE IN JAPAN.
THIS CHILD WAS BORN OF ONE OF MY MANY... 'CUSTOMERS' I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO HER FATHER IS...


I WAS THERE RIGHT AT THAT MOMENT!
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!!
O-OF COURSE! HERE!
...
CAN I PLEASE HOLD HER?
AH... OH, MY SWEET BABY...
...
Wah.
WOAH...
LUCKILY, I FOUND YOU A GOOD FATHER...





SFX: BOW





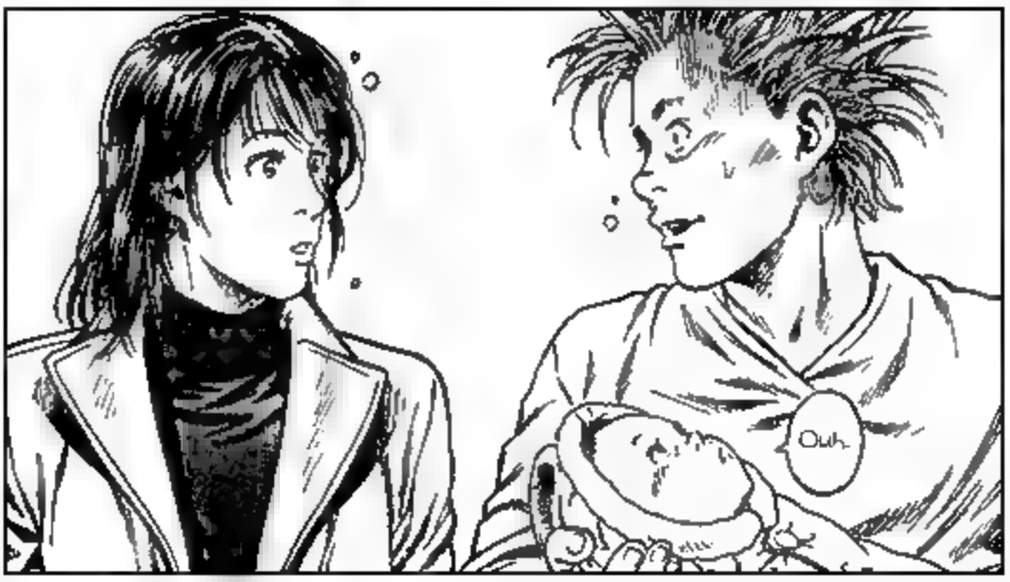


SFX: SLAM



SFX: BEWILDERMENT







SFX: CAR STARTING AND DRIVING OFF



SFX: SLAM!

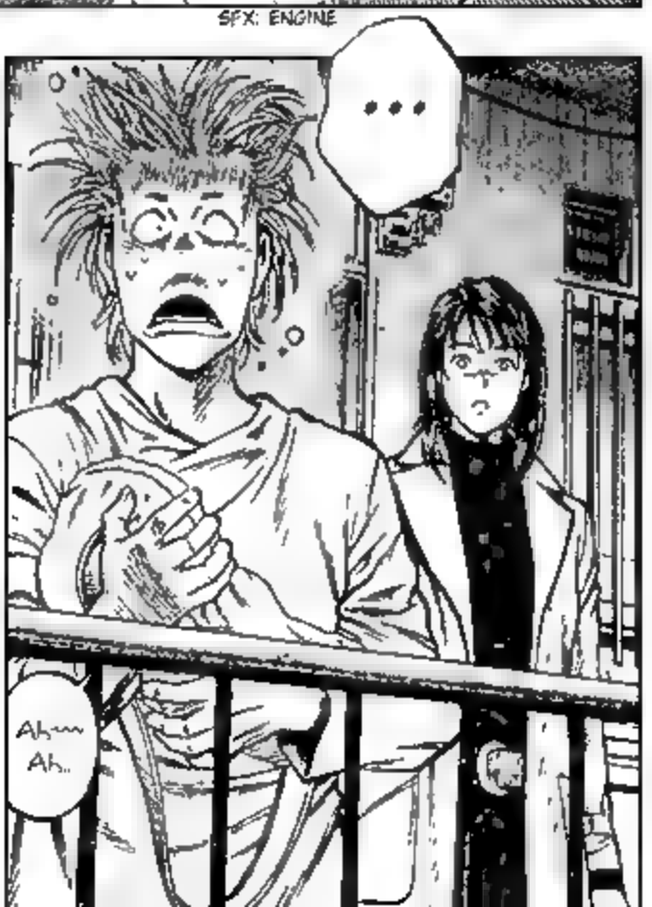




SFX: ENGINE








Ahww
Ahww
Pat
Pat
...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN...
RIGHT NOW, I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING...
Knock
Knock
THEN, DID HER MOTHER CHANGE HER MIND AND COME BACK?
SFX: GASP!
*AKINA CALLS HIM KUNI-CHAN
HEY KUNI!* YOU HAVEN'T COME TO SEE ME, SO I CAME TO SEE YOU! HOW ARE YOU DOING?
LOOK! I EVEN BROUGHT SNACKS!







SFX: WHUMP

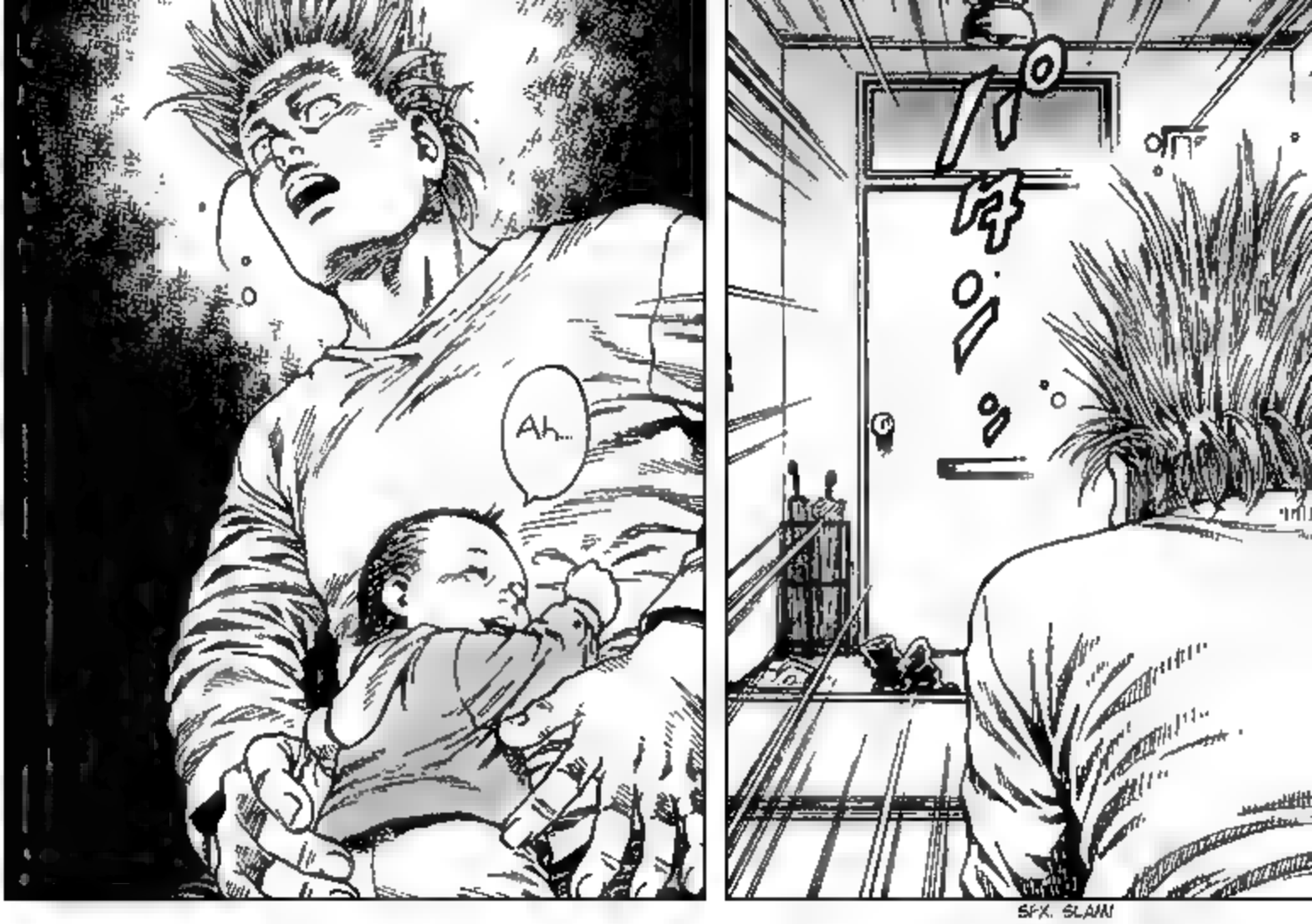


SFX: DOOR CLOSING SLOWLY, AWKWARDLY







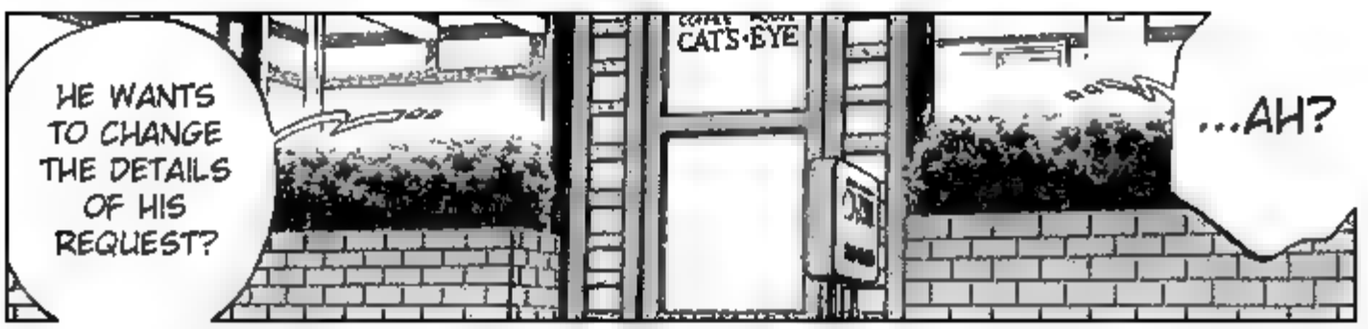

Ah...
SFX: SLAM!


...
WHY ...?
WHY DID SHE LEAVE SO SUDDEN-LY?
SO THAT WAS AKINA?
...?
しお…
SFX: GRR..


Bree-Deep
Akina
ARE YOU PLAYING THE FOOL WITH ME!?
Bree-Deep
MISUN-DERSTAND WHAT?
GIVEN THE STATE OF THINGS, WHO WOULDN'T MISUNDER-STAND THE SITUATION!?
Ah~~


Klak
...?
AH! AKINA SENT ME A MESSAGE!
I finally understand why you haven't let me into your apartment lately.
Young girls really are better than older women. She's so cute! You even have a child together.
Goodbye.
An
...

SFX: SHAKING


HE WANTS TO CHANGE THE DETAILS OF HIS REQUEST?
CAT'S·EYE
...AH?


HELP ME CLEAR UP THIS MIS-UNDERSTAND-ING WITH MY GIRLFRIEND!
PLEASE!!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, AH-SHAN?
I'm not sure, myself You'd better talk to Aida yourself.
EH?
Ha ha!
...?
Ah ha ha!



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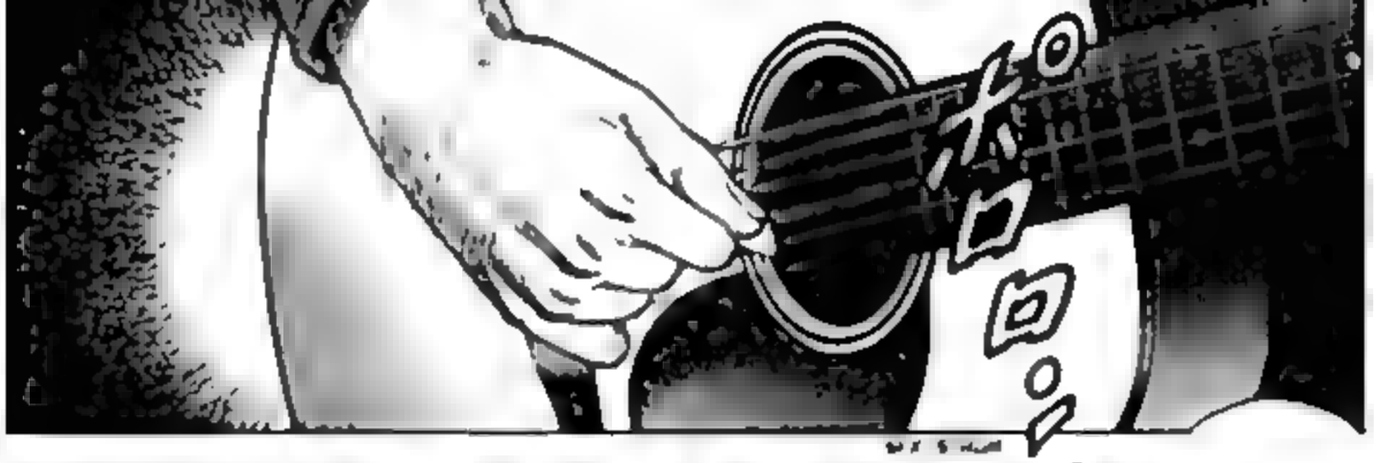
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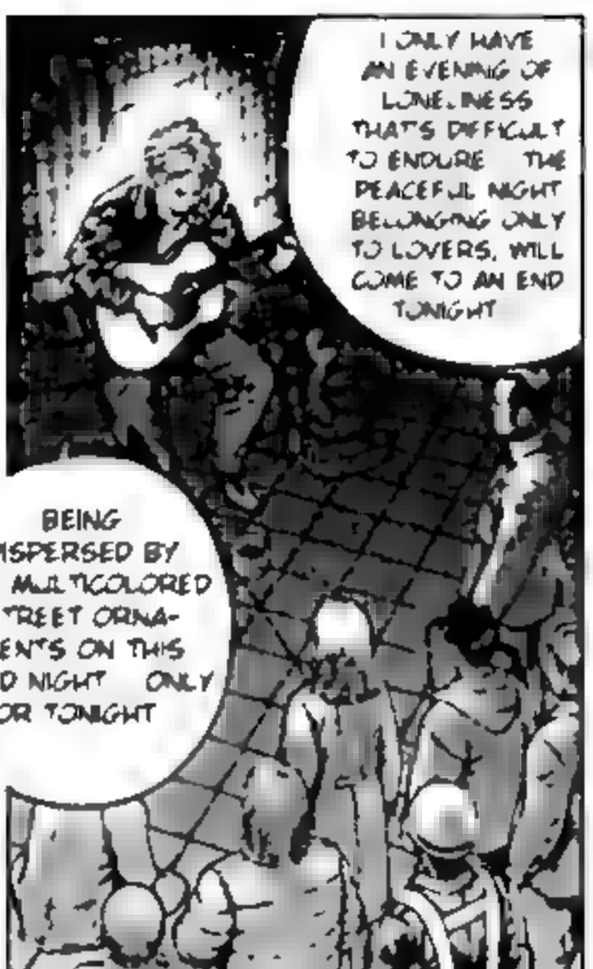
Chapter 114
A Misunderstanding Between Lovers






BEAUTIFUL STREETS FLASHING THEIR MULTICOLORED LIGHTS, GENTLY ENVELOPING PAIRS OF LOVERS
ALL ALONE ON CHRISTMAS ...


WHY DID HE CHOOSE THIS SUNG...? EVEN MY HAIR CAN'T STAND IT
HOW DEPRESSING


I ONLY HAVE AN EVENING OF LONELINESS THAT'S DIFFICULT TO ENDURE THE PEACEFUL NIGHT BELONGING ONLY TO LOVERS, WILL COME TO AN END TONIGHT
BEING DISPERSED BY THE MULTICOLORED STREET ORNAMENTS ON THIS COLD NIGHT ONLY FOR TONIGHT

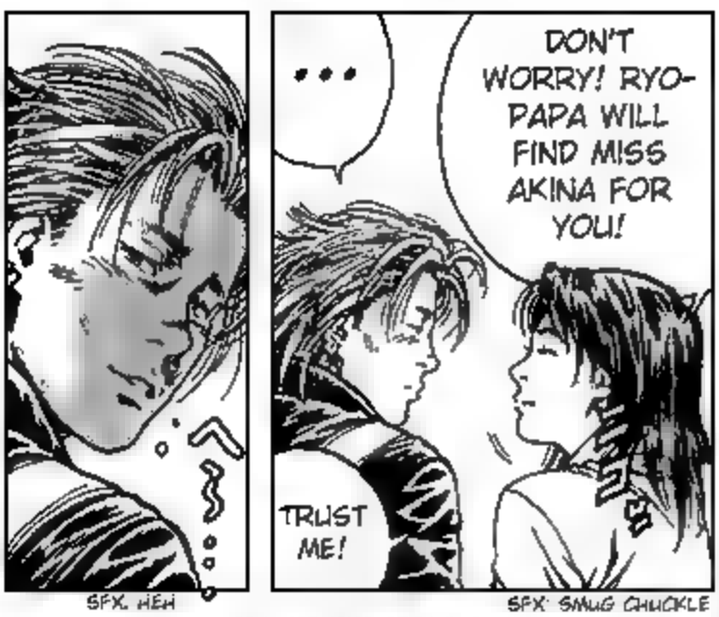

WELL, IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE


ONLY THOSE DIFFERENT PAIRS OF LOVERS...


Ouh~~
AIDA SAID THAT AFTER THAT HAPPENED, SHE WOULDN'T RATURN HIS CALLS TO HER HOME OR CELL PHONE. EVEN TEXT MESSAGING HER DOESN'T WORK.
Wu~~
THEN HIS GIRLFRIEND MISUNDERSTANDING, AND NOT EVEN TALKING TO HIM... WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS
YEAH... SINCE THE GIRL'S MOTHER LEFT HER IN HIS CARE...
I'M ALREADY USED TO BEING ALONE...
HE EVEN CALLED HER COMPANY AND THEY SAID SHE'S ON VACATION... BUT SHE'S NOT AT HOME.
SFX: PFF
BUT AS FOR THE REQUEST OF ASKING TO CLEAR THIS MISUNDERSTANDING WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND ...
AIDA IS KEEPING HIS PROMISE TO PAPA, WORKING PART-TIME DAY AND AT NIGHT ON THE STREET LIKE THIS.
AT LEAST FIND MISS AKINA AND LET AIDA HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!
...
PAPA, YOU MUST BE SERIOUS IN FINISHING YOUR CONTRACT!
THAT'S NOT REALLY A JOB FOR CITY HUNTER...
SFX: FWIP

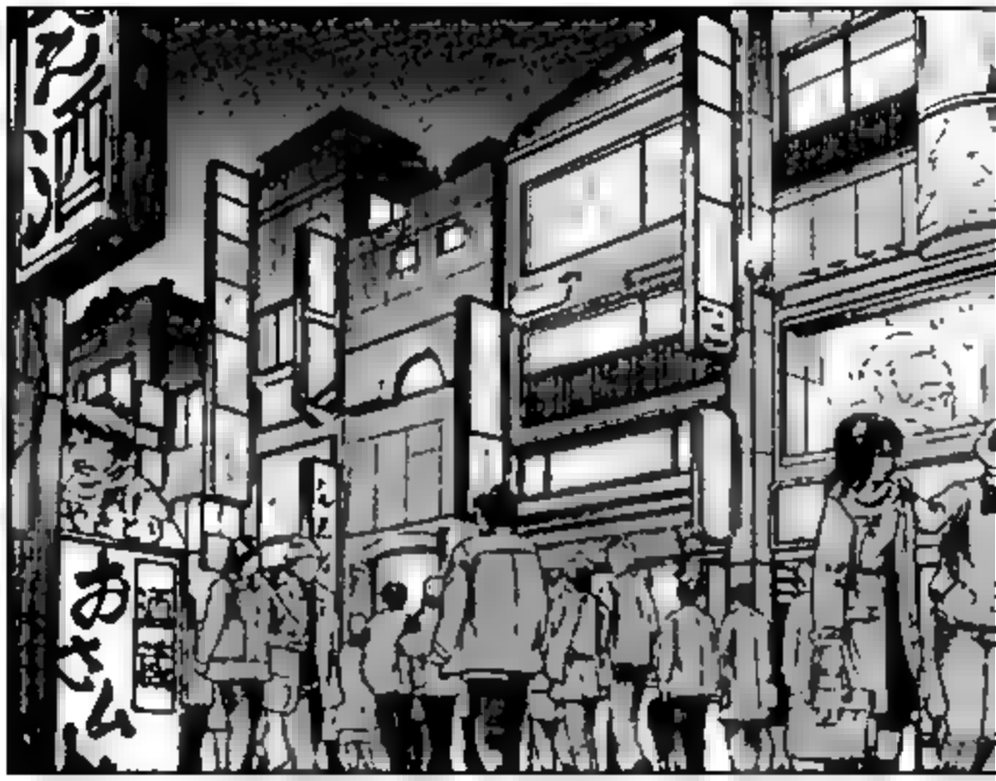

ALL ALONE ON CHRISTMAS... SHE'S NOT BY MY SIDE...
HU...
...
THAT WAS FAST ...!
HU AHU...
HU ...
Ouh Ouh
IS THIS THE SO-CALLED HOLIDAY SYMPATHY YOU HEAR ABOUT AT CHRISTMAS?
"Clap" "Clap"
...HIS SONG HAS A RATHER SORROWFUL PULL...
IT WAS VERY MOVING!
THAT WAS SPLENDID, BRO!
LET'S CHEER FOR HIM!

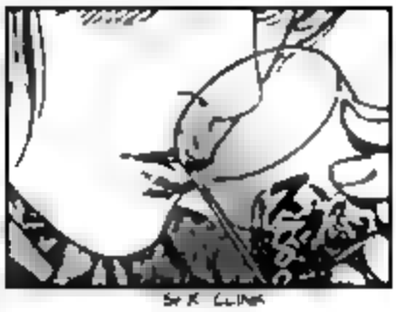

BEING ABLE TO MAKE SO MANY PEOPLE STAND AND ACTUALLY LISTEN TO ME HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE ..
...
ALTHOUGH NOW... I'M LISTLESS AND MY VOICE IS...
EVEN THOUGH I'M A LONG-TERM STREET MUSICIAN ..
...IT'S REALLY AMAZING ..
NOBODY PAID ATTENTION WHEN I WAS PLAYING ROCK 'N ROLL AT THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS ...


SFX: HEH
...
DON'T WORRY! RYO-PAPA WILL FIND MISS AKINA FOR YOU!
TRUST ME!
SFX: SMUG CHUCKLE
SFX: NERVOUS GROANING
AH! HOW GLOOMY!
とぼ
とぼ
BECAUSE OF THAT, I GRADUALLY LOST MY ENTHUSIASM, I'VE BEEN LIVING A NEGLIGENT LIFE AND BEING A BURDEN TO AKINA
THE TRUTH IS, I DID THIS ALL TO MY-SELF...


AH-HMM...
MAYBE SHOW-ING HIM THAT PICTURE WASN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA. BUT HOW WOULD HE KNOW WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE WITHOUT IT?
BUT... WAS IT OKAY TO ASK FOR RYO-PAPA'S HELP...?


YOU SURE? SHE'S GOT A MOLE UNDER HER LEFT EYE!
BAR
CROW




SFX: CLINK




...
SFX: ICE CLINKING


...
Guh
THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT, RYO-DEAR! IT'S THE WOMAN FROM THE PICTURE. SHE COMES IN TO MY BAR AND DRINKS HERSELF DRUNK.
MUH... JUH...

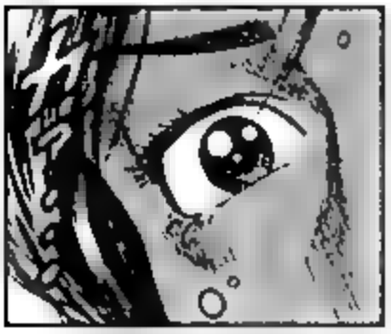

COMPLI-
MENTS OF
THE GEN-
TLEMAN.
...?
GIVE ME
ANOTHER
ROUND...
SFX: TAP
LOOKS LIKE
YOU'VE HAD
ENOUGH.
...WHY?
IS THAT
NOT
ALLOWED?
SFX: CLINK
...
NO... IT'S
NOTHING...
REALLY.


AND YOUR BOYFRIEND IS... A YOUNGER MAN, RIGHT ?


SFX Ah.


I JUST FELT THAT... YOU SEEM LIKE SOMEONE WHO WAS BETRAYED BY HER BOYFRIEND BEFORE CHRIST-MAS...
SFX GASP!






THAT MAN WAS STOLEN BY A YOUNG-ER WOMAN, AND THEY HAD A CHILD ...
...
IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE ...


FORGET ABOUT HIM.


GETTING STONE DRUNK HERE EVERY NIGHT OVER SUCH A BORING GUY IS JUST SO STUPID!




YOU... WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?
...


DON'T YOU KNOW? THE TRUTH IS YOU ARE A VERY CHARM-ING, SMART AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR-SELF.


I KNOW.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW!? THE TRUTH IS I-


SFX: HMM..


ONLY THE MAN WHO KNOWS WHAT THE REAL YOU IS LIKE... IS YOUR IDEAL CHOICE!
SO DON'T EVER GET YOURSELF DOWN OVER JERKS WHO DON'T TREASURE YOUR CHARMS.

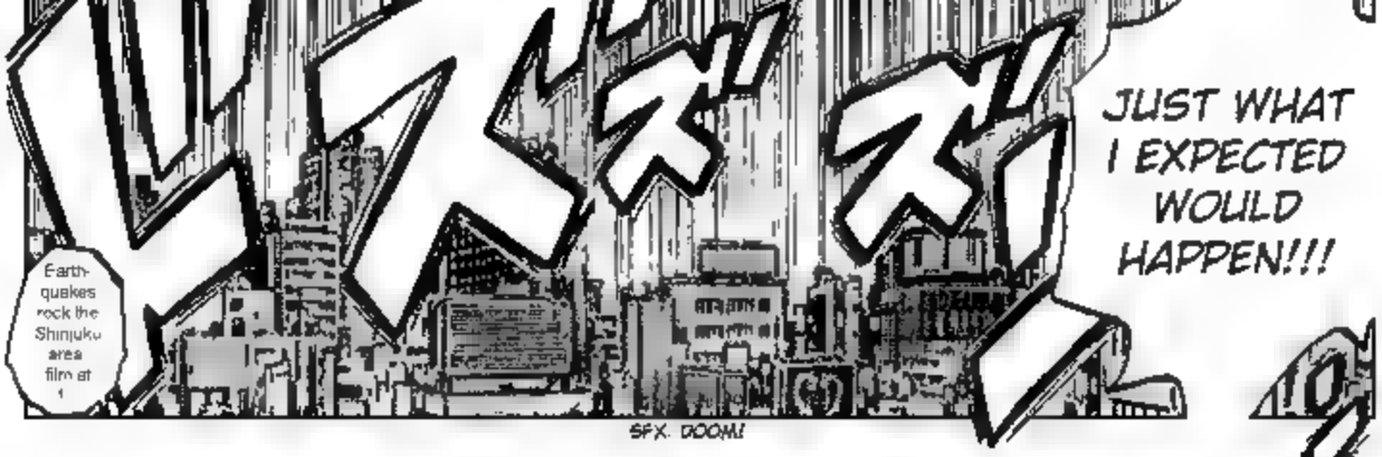

...


THAT'S RIGHT ...
SFX PAT
SOMEONE LIKE YOU... IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
FOR EXAMPLE ...
...
YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME...
...


I'M BEING SINCERE ...
SFX: GRIP


SFX PAT


SUC-
CESS!
SFX FOOLISH SMILE
OF COURSE.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
OF COURSE ...
... YES?
SO, SINCE THE BEGINNING, YOU WEREN'T PLANNING TO CLEAR UP AIDA'S MISUNDERSTANDING?
SFX WOOSH!
!!
...
SFX WOOSH


Earth-quakes rock the Shinjuku area film at 1
JUST WHAT I EXPECTED WOULD HAPPEN!!!
SFX: DOOM!


YOU! YOU'RE ...


SFX: DOOR SLAMMING


100
...

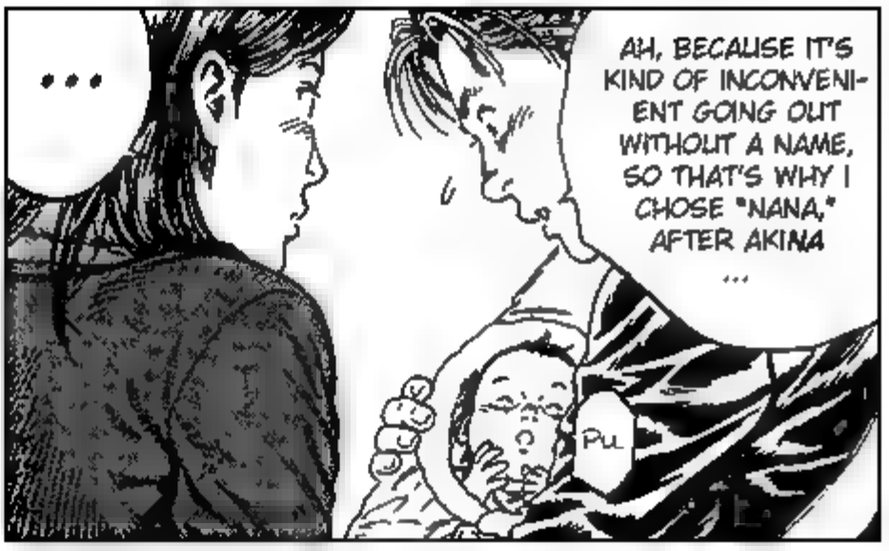

PLEASE, AKINA, HEAR ME OUT! IT'S JUST A BIG MISUNDER-STANDING!
IT'S ALL A MIS-UNDER-STAND-ING!


KUNI...




DAMN IT! JUST A LITTLE MORE AND-
Ouh Ouh...
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...
BAR CRO
THE TWO OF THEM HAVE BEEN HELPING ME FIND THIS CHILD'S PARENTS.
NO MAT-TER WHAT, I CAN'T ABANDON THIS GIRL... NANA...
YEAH!
YOU WERE TAKING CARE OF THIS ABANDONED BABY...
Ah!
NANA?


...
REALLY
...


...
AH, BECAUSE IT'S KIND OF INCONVENIENT GOING OUT WITHOUT A NAME, SO THAT'S WHY I CHOSE "NANA," AFTER AKINA
...
Pu


AKINA...
R-REALLY!?
IT, AH, IT MUST BE HARD LIVING ON YOUR OWN, SO WHY DON'T YOU MOVE IN WITH ME?
...


KUNI!
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME SOONER! KUNI'S KINDNESS IS WHAT I LOVE THE MOST ABOUT HIM!


LUCKY SONOVA-
CHE...


I PREDICTED IT WOULD END LIKE THIS, SO IN ORDER TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO, AND TO HELP LOOSEN MISS AKANE'S FEELINGS, THAT'S WHY-
B-BUT IN A MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LOVERS, OF COURSE THEY SHOULD BE THE ONES TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM!


SFX: EEK!
SFX: GRR


SO WHERE WAS NANA ABANDONED?
SFX: SHOCK
EH, HEH HEH HEH.. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
STOP MAKING EXCUSES.
SFX: LOOMING
IT WAS A HEIST!
EH...
HUH?
UH, WELL, ABOUT THAT... THE TRUTH IS, NANA WASN'T ABANDONED ...
...
THE... THE TRUTH IS...
NO! DON'T TELL HER THE TRUTH, IDIOT! JUST MAKE SOMETHING UP!!


SINCE I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO GET YOU A GIFT, I WAS NERVOUS... SO I STOLE A BAG AND SHE WAS IN IT...
...
AH...?
IT WAS ALMOST CHRISTMAS, SEE...?
SFX: KLUDD!
SFX: FOOTSTEPS
YOU TOTAL IDIOT!


I'VE NEVER SEEN A WOMAN HIT THAT HARD BEFORE.
UH...
WOW... WHAT AN AMAZING PUNCH...
SFX: UGH.
Bree Deep
!!
...
SFX: SLAM!
You abduct a child over money!? You're a disgrace!! You thought that if you used the ransom money to buy me gifts I would like you!?
GOODBYE FOREVER!
...
A MESSAGE FROM AKINA!
ALL ALONE ON CHRISTMAS ...
A COMPLETE AND TOTAL MISUNDERSTANDING...
EVEN IF HE WAKES UP AFTER THAT HIT, SEEING THIS MESSAGE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY KNOCK HIM OUT AGAIN...
WHAT A TOUCHING SONG...
Ah! Ah!
SFX: CLAPPING



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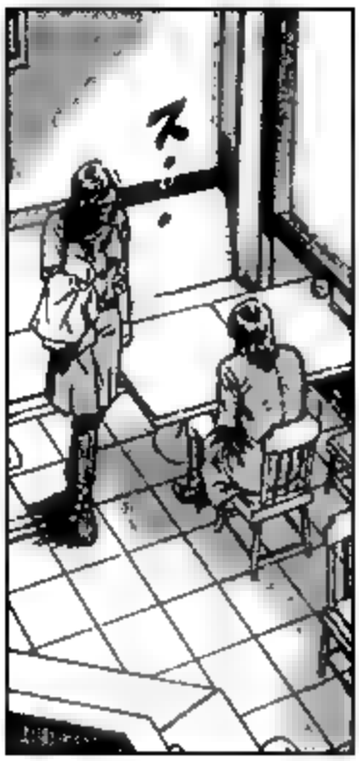
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Chapter 115 Silent Night Miracle
















SFX: FOOTSTEPS
SO THAT'S IT, THEN ...
...
WELL, THANKS FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT.
...AH!
AIDA!
SO WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR NANA...?
...


...
EVEN THOUGH I'M ILL-PREPARED TO BE NANA'S GUARDIAN, MAYBE I'M FORCING IT A LITTLE BIT...
BUT I'VE DECIDED. I WILL NOT LEAVE NANA AGAIN...!
I STILL HAVEN'T FULFILLED MY PROMISE TO HELP HER FIND HER PARENTS ...
Uh...
...
IN THE END... THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO...
Ah...!
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THIS WAS NEVER WITHIN THE SCOPE OF CITY HUNTER'S EXPERTISE.

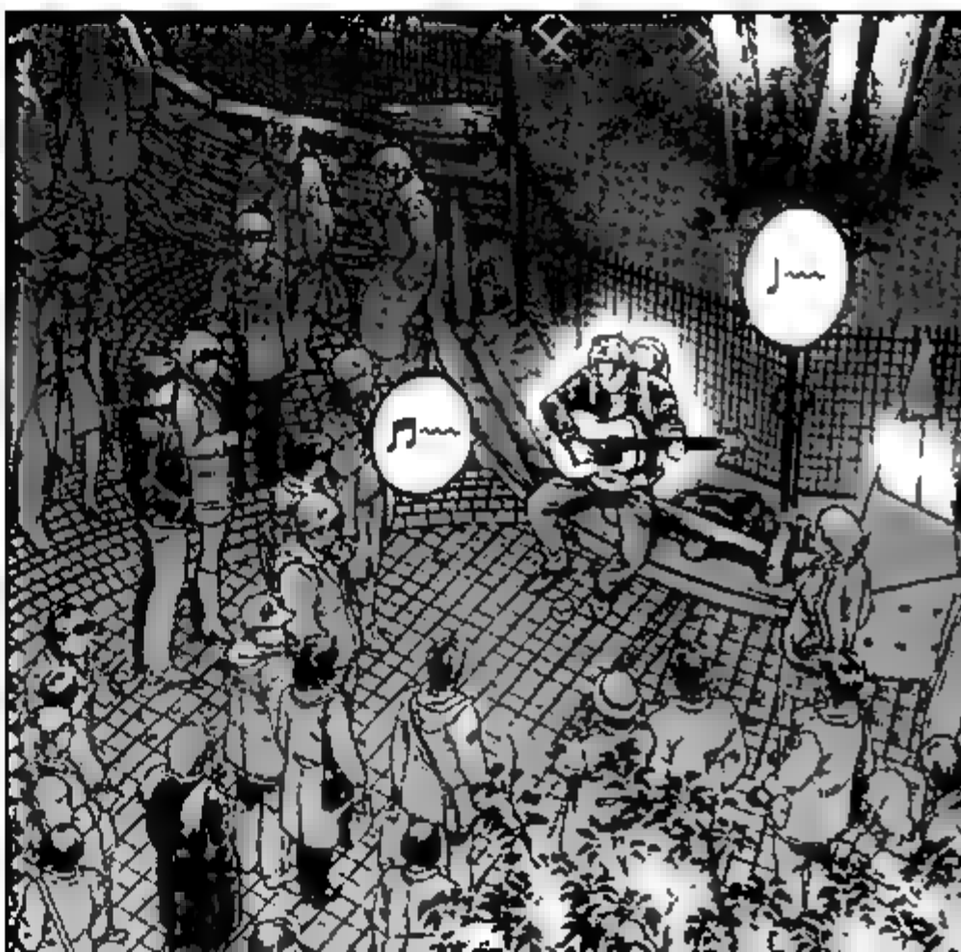



CREATING MIRACLES BETWEEN LOVERS IS GOD'S WILL.
AND ISN'T GOD'S SILENT NIGHT COMING SOON?


...


One week later Silent Night
MYCITY






Ah
Ouh

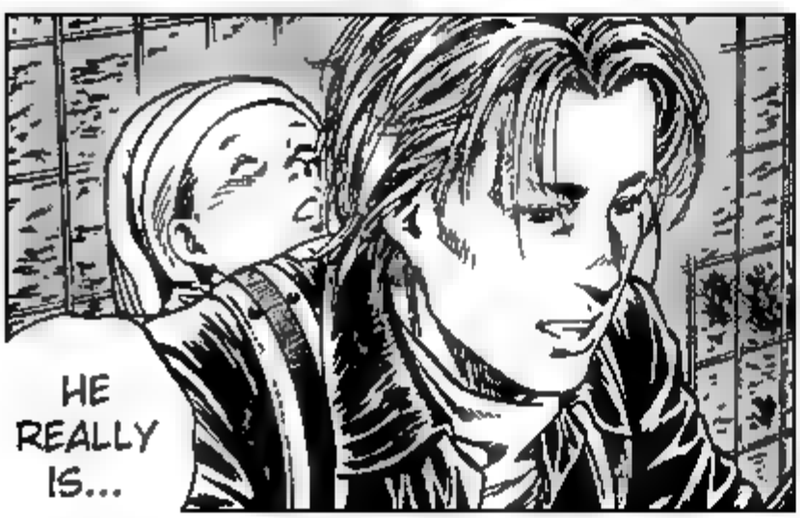

...
SOOTH-
ING
VOICE...
WHAT
A...
...


DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU HAD NO PLANS TO MAKE UP WITH HIM?
...


IT'S BECOME MORE GENTLE...
HIS SINGING VOICE HAS CHANGED...


ALWAYS HIDING IN THE SHADOWS ...
YOU'VE BEEN COMING HERE ALL WEEK TO LISTEN TO HIS SONGS...


AIDA HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO ADOPT NANA ...


HE REALLY IS...

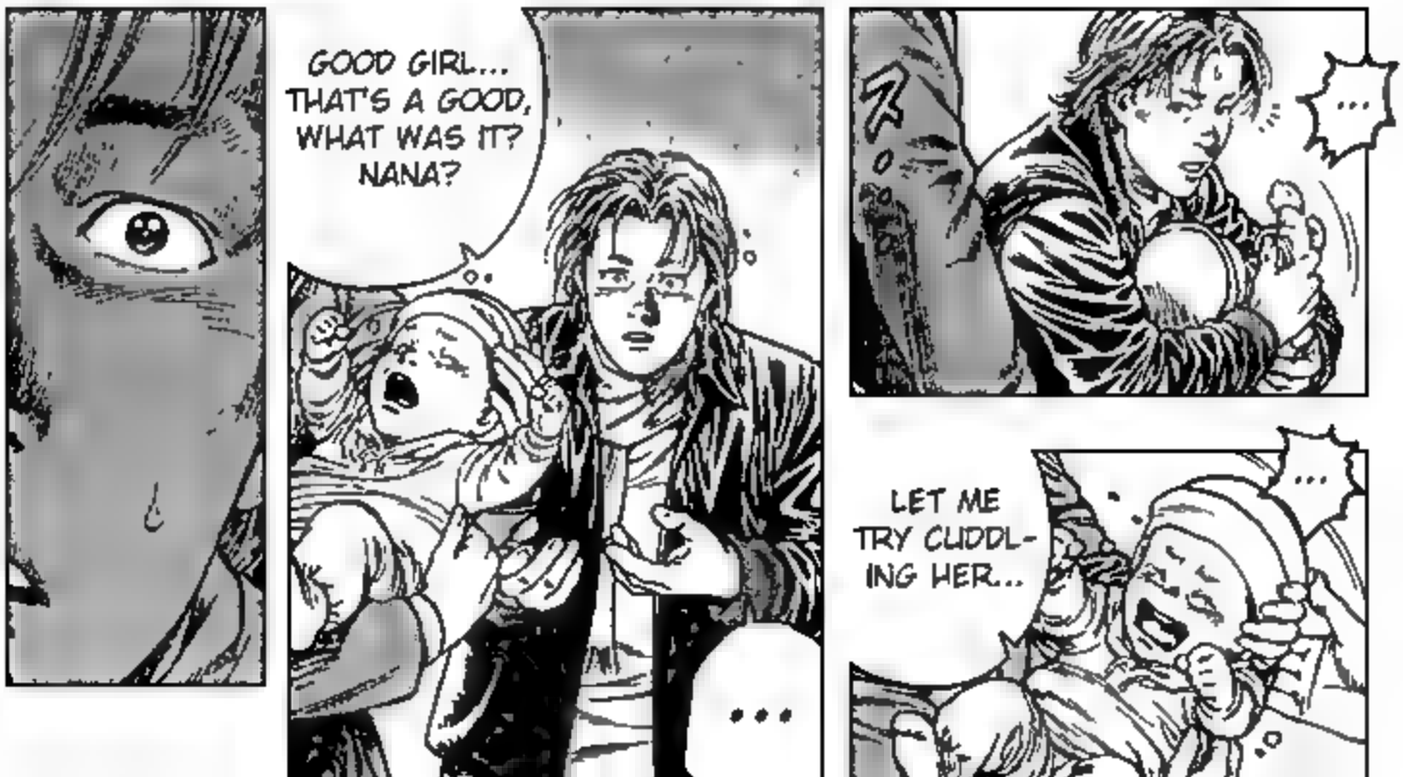



AN IDIOT ...


AKINA !
SFX: RUNNING
WAH! WAH!
W-WHAT'S WRONG, NANA!?
WAAAH
SFX: MISSED NOTE
EH


WAH! WAH!
...
HEY, WHAT IS THIS? DON'T SING IN THE STREETS IF YOU'RE BRINGING A BABY!
DIDN'T I JUST FEED YOU? IS IT TIME TO CHANGE YOUR DIAPER?
WAH! WAH!
BUMMER ...
...
WHAT A DIS-APPOINT-MENT...


NANA !?
WAH! WAH!
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?


GOOD GIRL... THAT'S A GOOD, WHAT WAS IT? NANA?
...
...
LET ME TRY CUDDL-ING HER...
...


...
...A-
AKINA
...!
HAVE
CHANGED
...
YOU...
IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF NANA... SHE WAS ABLE TO FILL THE GAP... THE HOLE OF LONELINESS THAT SUDDENLY OPENED UP DEEP WITHIN YOUR HEART...
...?
YOUR SONGS... EVEN YOUR EYES...
AFTER MEETING THIS CHILD, YOU'VE BECOME GENTLER...
DON'T! DON'T CRY ANYMORE!
A-
AKINA,
I-
...
THAT I COULDN'T FILL...
THE HOLE OF LONELI-NESS...


Ah~
GOODBYE, NANA... I'LL LEAVE KUNI IN YOUR CARE ...
...
AKI-
...
Ma... Mah~
Ma... Mah ~
Grab


SHE MEANS... ME!?
DID... DID...
...SHE JUST CALL YOU 'MAMA?'
HA...
SHE...
CALLED ME...
SFX: HUG
...
AKINA ...


THE HOLE IN MY HEART HASN'T BEEN FILLED YET! IT'S STILL FAR FROM FULL! I STILL NEED YOU!
AKINA, I-
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE...
THE TRUTH IS...

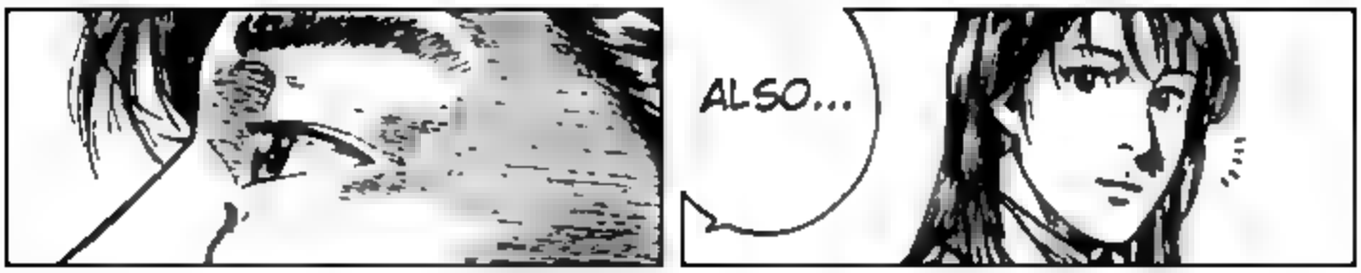



I'M JUST LIKE YOU... I NEED YOU AND NANA, THE BOTH OF YOU...
TO FILL UP THE HOLE IN MY HEART...


...


HMPH! BEING A MESSENGER OF GOD AND DOING SHAMEFUL THINGS FOR THAT BABY...
SEE? DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO JUST ASK FOR HELP FROM ABOVE AND ALL WILL BE FINE?
SFX: HMPH!
I SAW THE WHOLE THING!
Ping
Flick


JUST GIVING GOD A HELPING HAND.
...
SFX PFF


ALSO...


A TRUE MESSENGER OF GOD...
HAS BROUGHT HAPPINESS TO BOTH OF THEIR LIVES... MAYBE THAT'S WHAT THAT BABY IS!
EXCUSE ME!
I'M SORRY FOR DISTURBING THIS SWEET MOMENT FOR THE TWO OF YOU ..
SFX WHA ?


HUH? OH, FORGIVE ME... IN MY LINE OF WORK ...
...?
AH, I HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO YOUR MUSIC! IT SEEMS LIKE YOUR SINGING HAS BEEN REFINED INTO SIMPLICITY AND GENTLENESS!
AHEM!
AH...
PU WU
AH...!
SFX: SNAG
エポック・ミュージック
EPOCH MUSIC INC
プロモーター
堀内賢治
KENJI HORIUCHI
Ouh! Ouh ouh ouh...!
ARGH! NANA! GIVE IT BACK!!
...


The next night... New Year's Eve
Aah! This year is coming to an end!!
Only 10 more minutes until the new year!!
The most outstanding won the first prize and the crowd's most eagerly-awaited and newest rising star is taking the stage!
At tonight's New Year's Eve Street Musician Contest
WHAT A GREAT NEW YEAR'S EVE! I LOST A BET TO A VAGRANT AND I'M FORCED TO ENTERTAIN GUESTS! I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT YEAR!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, RYO? YOU SEEM TO BE HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME!
THAT BASTARD ~~~
...
SFX. STRUMMING
NEXT YEAR, I RESOLVE TO ONLY TAKE REQUESTS FROM BEAUTIFUL WOMEN!!
PAPA, YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK!


STUDIO ALTA
ALTAVISION
...



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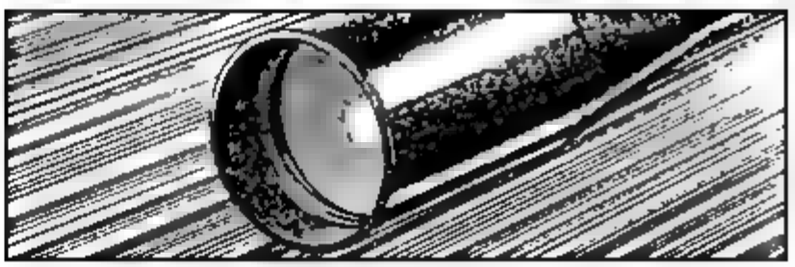

COULD IT BE !?
...
SFX. BUOM!
LIU SHIN-HON!


Chapter 116
Destined
Meeting





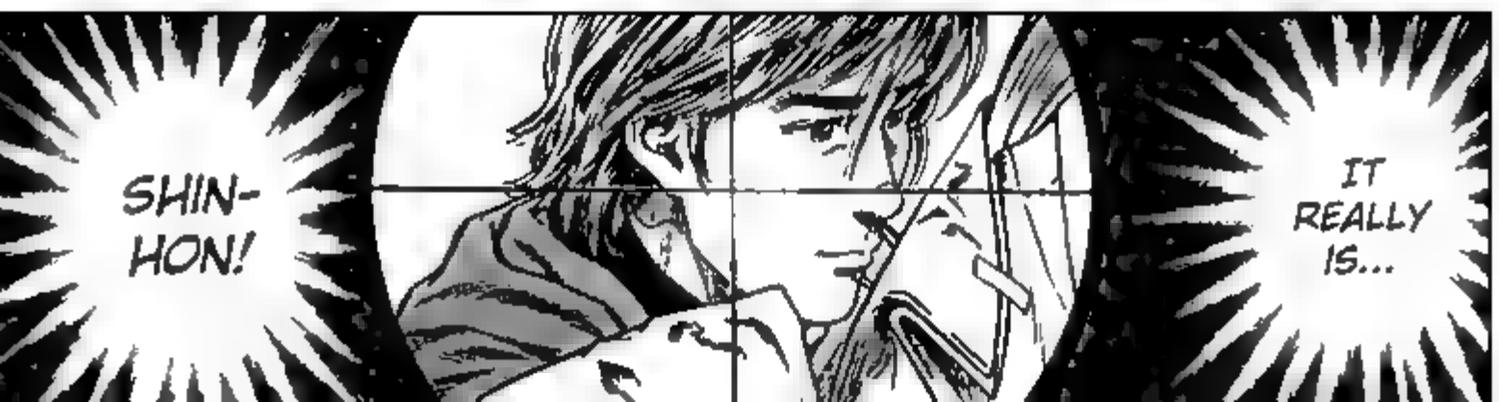
SHX. CLICK

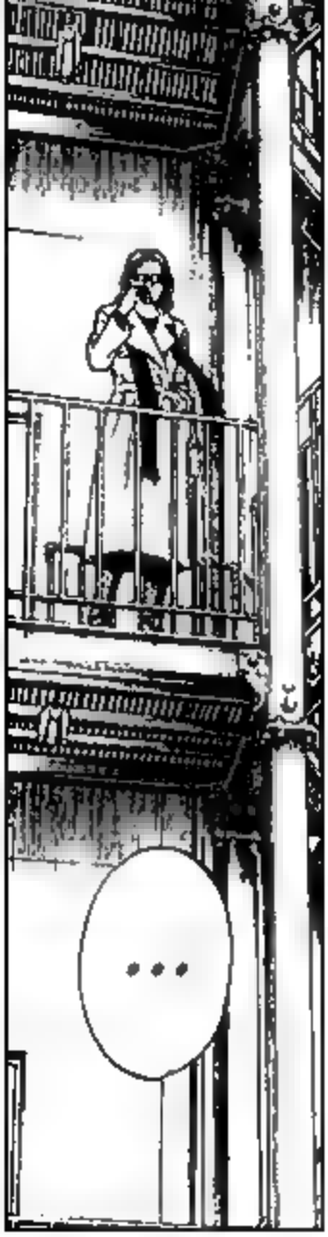




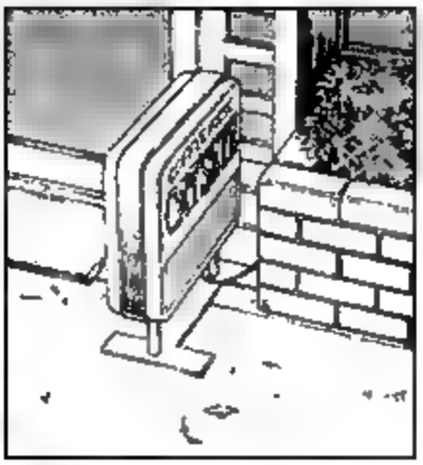






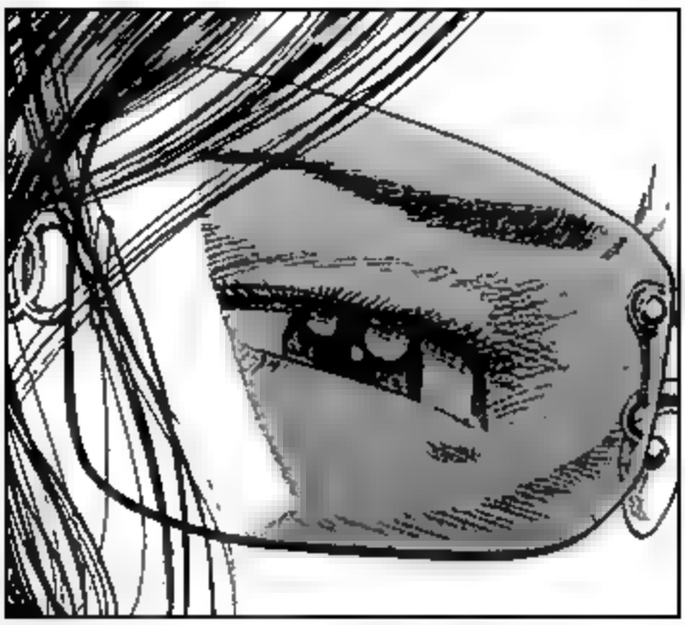








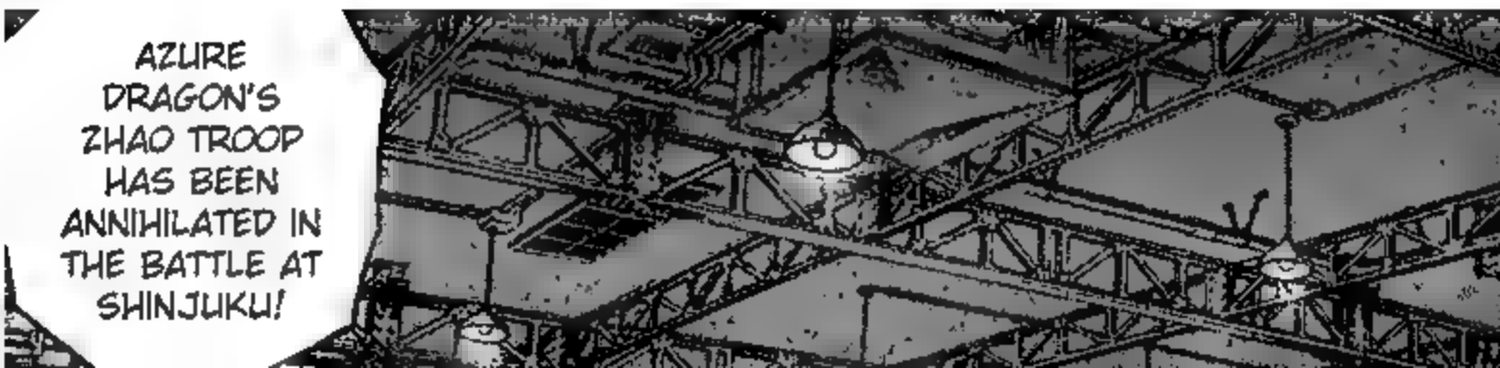
SFX. DING







SFX. RATTLE




— Two years ago —
— Azure Dragon Troop Barracks —
...
THEN SHIN-HON'S AZURE DRAGON EMBLEM...
HOW COULD IT BE...?
ON ANOTHER NOTE, THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER...
BECAUSE OF THIS...
ZHUAN WU TROOPS WILL TAKE ON THE CLEANING UP OF THE LATTER'S ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE TROOPS!
...
WE HAVE ALREADY CONFIRMED THAT THE SHINJUKU BATTLE DID NOT HAVE THE ORGANIZATION'S OFFICIAL ORDERS, BUT WAS INSTIGATED BY TWO TRAITORS, THE AZURE DRAGON'S COMMANDING OFFICER ZHANG AND THE ZHAO TROOP'S TEAM LEADER.
SFX. MURMURS
THEN!... SHIN-HON'S...!?
TOTAL... TOTAL ANNIHILATION!?


...
SHIN-HON... IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE TO RETURN IT TO YOU...!
...
...
...
Ding

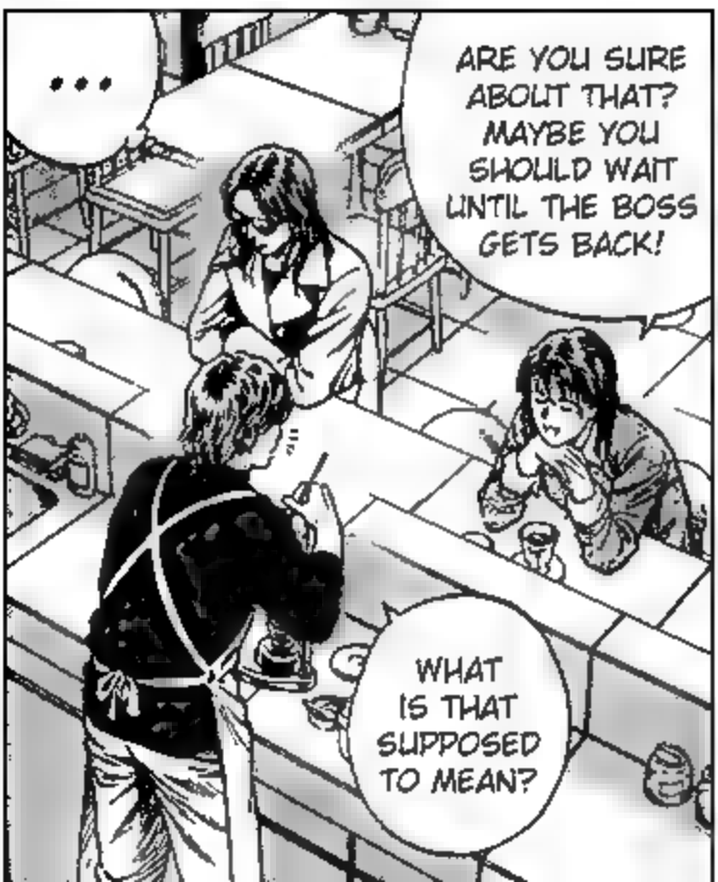

WELCOME!
...
...
PLEASE, SIT WHER-EVER YOU LIKE.
SFX: Ah!


WHAT WILL YOU HAVE?
... A BLEND ...


...
SURE! JUST HOLD ON.


IT'S LIKE SHE'S ONE OF US...!!
THIS WOMAN ...


BUT WHY IS SHE SO TENSE ...?
I DON'T SENSE ANY MALICIOUS INTENT ...


...
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? MAYBE YOU SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THE BOSS GETS BACK!
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?








OH, I DON'T KNOW ...
YOU MIGHT JUST BE LOSING A FUTURE CUSTOMER IS ALL...
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A "CRAZY GIRL?" AND IN FRONT OF A CUSTOMER?!
DON'T YOU LISTEN TO THIS CRAZY GIRL, OKAY? I'M GOING TO PREPARE A WONDERFUL CUP OF COFFEE FOR YOU NOW!
OH... OKAY ...
I'M GETTING BETTER AT THIS ALL THE TIME! I'M GREAT AT THIS BY NOW!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
...
WELL, AH...
NOPE!
BUT ARE YOU TWO DATING?
EXCUSE ME FOR ASKING ...
WOW... IT SEEMS LIKE YOU TWO REALLY GET ALONG...
SFX: LAUGH
...
...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO... DIRECT, SHANIN...
IT'S THE TRUTH.
COFFEE HOUSE
CAT'S EYE


Uh-huh!
Uh-huh!
HIM? POPULAR? YEAH RIGHT ...
じと…
HEH HEH ...!
SFX: GLARE
NO...
SORRY, I DON'T MEAN TO LAUGH...
BUT YOU ARE PRETTY CUTE. YOU MUST BE A REAL HIT WITH THE LADIES.
コポポ
SFX: GLUG GLUG
...
NO WAY!
BUT I'M SURE AT LEAST SOMEONE HAS CONFESSED LOVE TO YOU!
SFX: GRR..
...
THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHY...
SOMEONE DID... ONCE...


... I LOVE YOU!
...
IT WAS JUST ONCE, THOUGH...
I HAVE A LOT OF BAD MEMORIES I'D LIKE TO FORGET...
...!
BUT THAT'S NOT ONE OF THEM...
PAINFUL MEMORY ...?
IS IT A...
... NO!


NO, I'M SORRY. AFTER ALL, I SHOULD NOT HAVE ASKED...
SORRY! THAT WAS KIND OF AWKWARD, WASN'T IT?
SFX: SHAKING
HA HA...
EH?
ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
YOU SEEM HAPPY ...
...
SFX: SHA...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXCELLENT COFFEE. I'LL LEAVE THE MONEY HERE ...
SFX: CHAIR SLIDING
SFX: CLINK



*SPOKEN IN CHINESE








SO IT REALLY IS YOU... BAI LAN...
...
SFX: SIGH


YOU'RE LEAVING FOR SHIN-JUKU TONIGHT, RIGHT?
SHIN-HON...


THE AZURE DRAGON EMBLEM...
...
... BAI LAN?


YOUR AZURE DRAGON EMBLEM... PLEASE...?
... I'LL TAKE ...
...
NO... THERE'S NOBODY HERE WHO WOULD AWAIT MY RETURN...
WHAT ABOUT ME?
DID YOU ALREADY ENTRUST IT TO SOME-ONE?

...

SFX: TUG

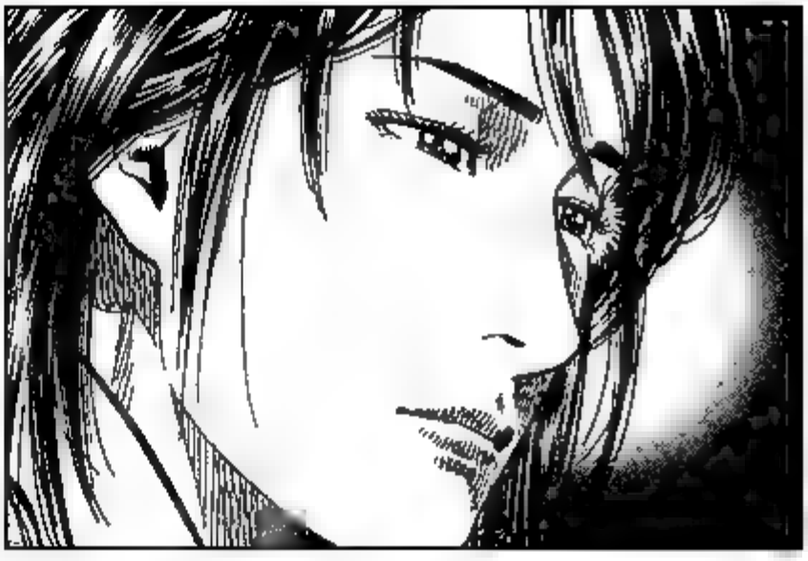

I PROMISE TO RECEIVE THIS EMBLEM FROM YOU, AND TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE MY MISSION!
MAY THIS EMBLEM SOMEDAY RETURN TO YOUR HAND. MY HEARTFELT WISH IS FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN...


...
... I LOVE YOU!
COME BACK ALIVE ...!
YOU MUST ...
... BAN LAI...?


MY AZURE DRAGON EMBLEM ...
I ENTRUSTED THIS TO YOU... WHEN I LEFT...
...
I NEVER BELIEVED.. THAT THERE'D COME A DAY WHEN I COULD RETURN THE EMBLEM..
I'M SO HAPPY...
SHIN-HON...
OR THAT... YOU'D STILL REMEMBER ME...
...

Note:
Careful readers will have noticed that we translated all the units' names into English in this chapter. This was done in order to bring an end to the Chinese/Japanese pronunciation debate that was going on. The manga uses Japanese words for Byakko, Genbu and Suzaku, but (for no apparent reason) Chinese for Qing Long. It should also be noted that the names are based on the Chinese constellation.

As a reminder, here is a list of the units in the manga in Chinese, Japanese and English:
Qīng Lóng / Seiryuu (Azure Dragon)
Zhū Què / Suzaku (Vermilion Bird)
Bái Hū / Byakko (White Tiger)
Xuan Wǔ / Genbu (Black Tortoise)



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Chapter 117 The Changes of the Two




EH... SOMETHING LIKE THAT ...
WELL, YEAH...
A DIRECT ORDER FROM MASTER LI?
AS FAR AS THE ORGANIZATION IS CONCERNED, I DIED WITH THE REST OF ZHAO'S UNIT.
...
I'M ACTUALLY HERE IN SHINJUKU ON A MISSION TO PROTECT SOMEONE——
SO I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU WON'T TELL ME ABOUT THE MISSION YOU'RE IN SHINJUKU FOR, RIGHT?
MPH!
"YOU MUST NEVER REVEAL THE DETAILS OF YOUR MISSION, EVEN TO YOUR COMRADES!"
HA HA HA!
YOU TALK SO MUCH NOW! I WOULD HAVE NEVER GUESSED FROM THE WAY YOU WERE BEFORE!

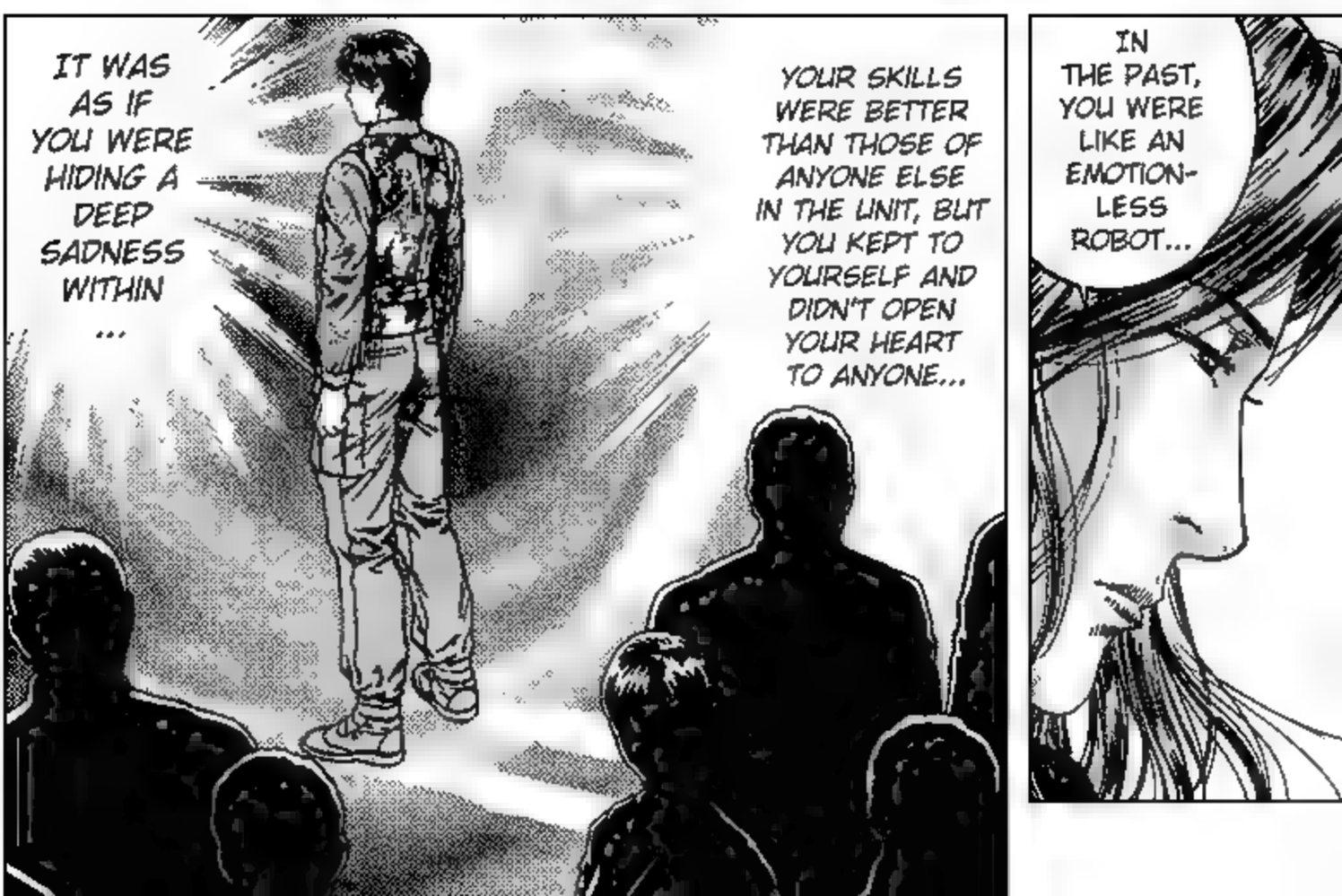

S-SURE!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT! WHY DON'T WE BOTH FORGET ABOUT OUR MISSIONS AND HAVE SOME FUN TODAY?
FUN...? SOMEWHERE FUN!..
EH? EH?
ABOUT THE TWO OF THEM?
ARE YOU WORRIED ?
COFFEE HOUSE
CAT'S EYE
I'M ENVIOUS... OF SHIN-HON...
...
YEAH
...
...
キュ...


HUH?
IS THAT THE ONLY THING THAT'S BOTHER-ING YOU?
SFX: PFF
...
HE HAS A FRIEND FROM HIS PAST HE CAN CONFIDE IN...
...
WE OPERATED INDIVIDUALLY IN THE VERMILION BIRD UNIT, SO WE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE THAT COMRADE MENTALITY.
YOU REALLY HAVE CHANGED...
SHIN-HON...
SFX: BWOING!
...
HUH !?
THINKING ABOUT NOW...?
WHAT ARE YOU...


AH!
SFX: SWIP
AH HA! EH, ABOUT THIS...
AH!
SFX: SHUFF
SFX: RUNNING
SFX: KICK
AH ~~!
SFX: KICK
SFX: CHOMP!
SFX: THUD


...
HERE YOU GO!
THANKS!


EVEN AT THE CAFE YESTERDAY, YOU WERE SO LIVELY THAT I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED IT WAS YOU... THE SHIN-HON OF THE PAST WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD THAT EXPRESSION...
BAI LAN?
YOU... REALLY HAVE CHANGED ...


IT WAS AS IF YOU WERE HIDING A DEEP SADNESS WITHIN ...
YOUR SKILLS WERE BETTER THAN THOSE OF ANYONE ELSE IN THE UNIT, BUT YOU KEPT TO YOURSELF AND DIDN'T OPEN YOUR HEART TO ANYONE...
IN THE PAST, YOU WERE LIKE AN EMOTION-LESS ROBOT...


AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE, I GUESS...
THIS CITY...
WHAT MADE YOU CHANGE SO MUCH?
...
ESPECIALLY ONE PERSON. I THINK OF HIM AS A KIND OF SPIRITUAL MASTER...
HE'S INCREDIBLE! I CAN'T EVEN COMPARE TO HIM. HE'S STRONG, HE'S KIND... AND THEN THERE'S HIS VIGOROUS MOKKORI*...
*TENT, SLANG FOR ERECTION
RYO SAEBA. HE'S THE ONE THEY CALL "CITY HUNTER". THIS CITY'S-
WHO IS HE?
THAT MAN IS MY PERSONAL IDOL!
EH, LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT!
VIGOROUS MOKKORI?
WHAT'S UP? DID YOU CALL, SHIN-HON?


M-M-M-MR SAEBA !?
Oi!
I FOUND SHIN-HON!

IT SEEMS YOU MADE SHANIN TAKE OVER AT THE OCTOPUS' PLACE AND WENT OUT ON A DATE!
I HEARD, SHIN-HON!


IS THIS THE ONE?
AH, YES!


YOU'RE PRETTY SLICK!
EH, NO, THAT'S NOT IT! SHANIN WAS THE ONE WHO OFFERED AND-


SFX: ZOOM!
*DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT ALREADY.
MOKKORI!*


ぴくん


I'LL INTRODUCE YOU. THIS IS-


WH-
WHAT
ARE-
BEING SHIN-HON'S GIRLFRIEND IS SUCH A WASTE, MY LITTLE FOX!
YAH
!?


...


MISTER SAEBA
!?
AH!


SFX: RUSH!

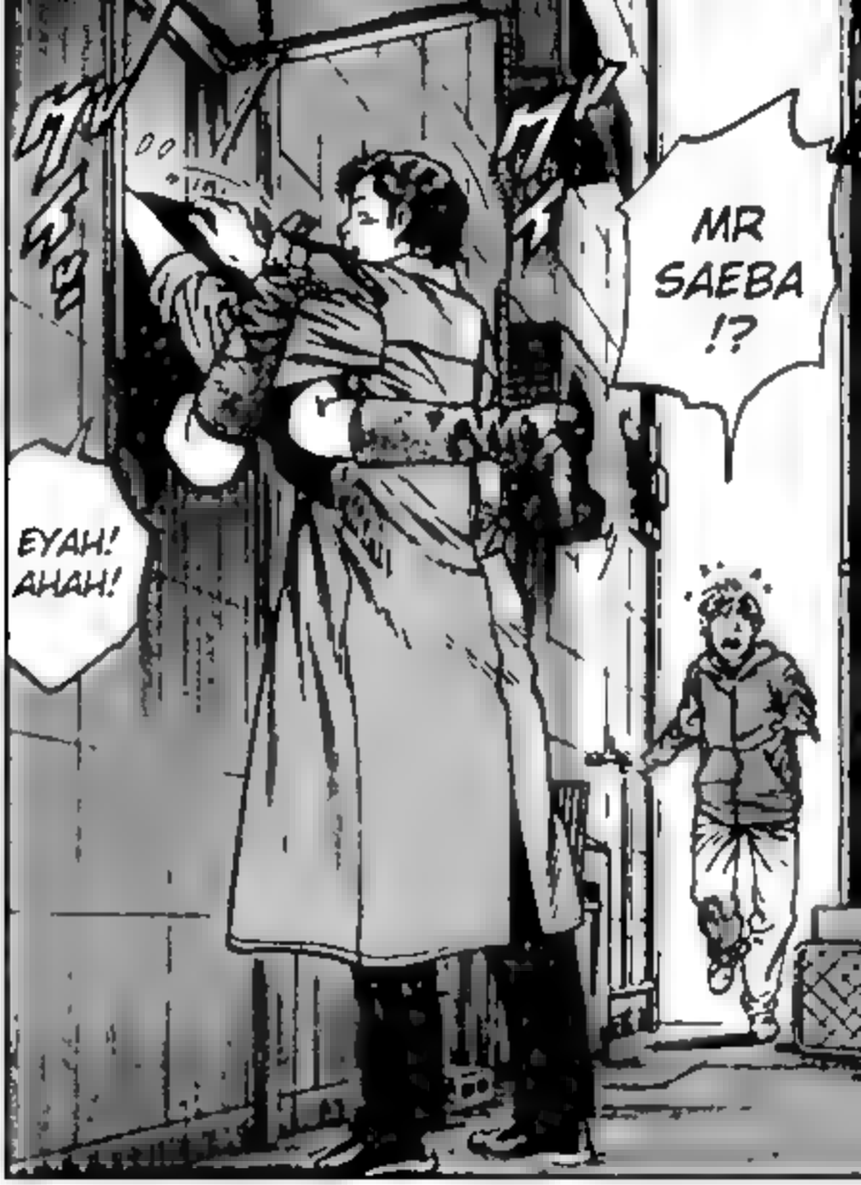

-WHAT? IS THIS GUY SHIN-HON'S MAS-TER?
Or is he the makkon master?


SFX: DASH!
YA-
AH-
AH!


WAIT, MR SAEBA! WHAT ARE YOU-


SHIN-HON, YOU GET IN HERE, TOO!
Ya-ah!


THIS ALLEY IS A DEAD END FOR ALL THE PLACES HERE!


MR SAEBA !?
EYAH! AHAH!


FOL-LOWED ...?


YOU DON'T WANT TO BE FOLLOWED ON YOUR DATE, DO YOU?


THEY LET YOU NOTICE THEM SO YOU WOULD DROP YOUR GUARD... VETERANS OFTEN USE THIS TRICK ...
THEY INTENTION-ALLY USED THOSE TWO AMA-TEURS...


T-THAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE! I LOST BOTH THE PURSUERS ALREADY!
THERE ARE THREE OF THEM.

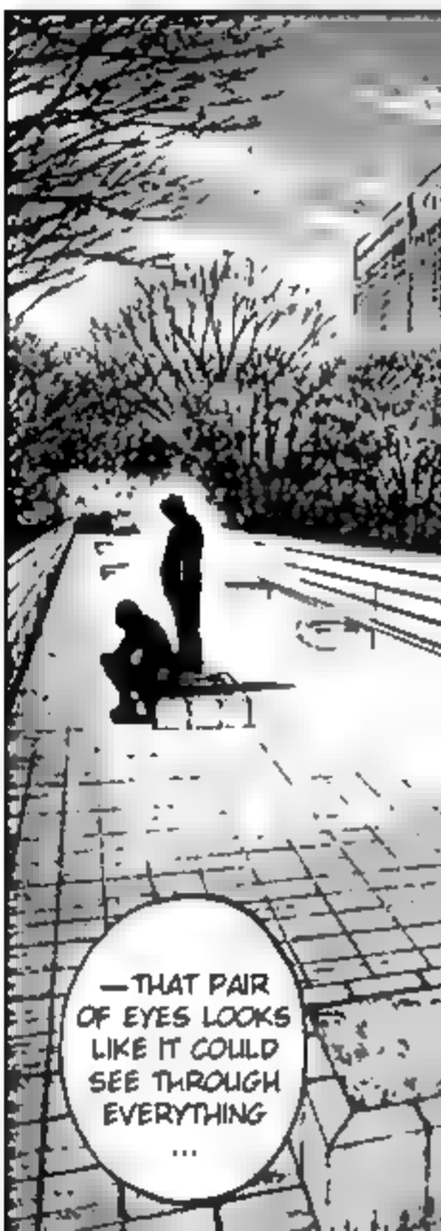

RIGHT!
HURRY UP, SHIN-HON!
...
THIS IS MY ADVICE TO THE TWO OF YOU, SO REMEMBER IT WELL.
...
WERE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?



HE REALLY IS A GREAT GUY...








...
YOU CAN'T TELL ME ABOUT YOUR MISSION...
I SEE ...
THEY KEPT ONLY THE MOST ELITE AND GREATLY REDUCED THEIR FORCES...
THEY HAVE CHANGED... EVER SINCE THE ZHANG BETRAYAL INCIDENT...
I'M... NO LONGER WITH AZURE DRAGON ...
I... HAVE TO GO NOW...
IS IT VERMILION BIRD, BLACK TORTOISE OR WHITE TIGER...!?
THEN... NOW YOU WORK FOR...
MOST OF US WERE REASSIGNED TO THE REMAINING THREE UNITS...






I HAD FUN TODAY ...
THANK YOU, SHIN-HON...


BAI LAN!


THAT SMILE WARMED MY HEART ...
ONLY... I'M NOT ABLE TO PAY YOU BACK ...


...
WHEN WE WERE IN AZURE DRAGON, MY HEART WAS SEALED OFF...
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO SMILED FOR ME!


THE GENTLENESS OF YOUR OLD SMILE HAS DIS-APPEARED!
YOU SAID I'VE CHANGED, BUT YOU'VE CHANGED, TOO!


IF... IF THERE'S ANY-THING I CAN DO FOR YOU IN RETURN —
I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THAT TIME!
ALREADY HAVE...
YOU...
YOUR SMILE ...
BAI...
SFX: GRAB
FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR HAPPY SMILE... THAT IS ENOUGH FOR ME...
YOU NEVER SMILED BEFORE... BUT YOU FINALLY SMILED FOR ME...


THANK YOU, SHIN-HON...





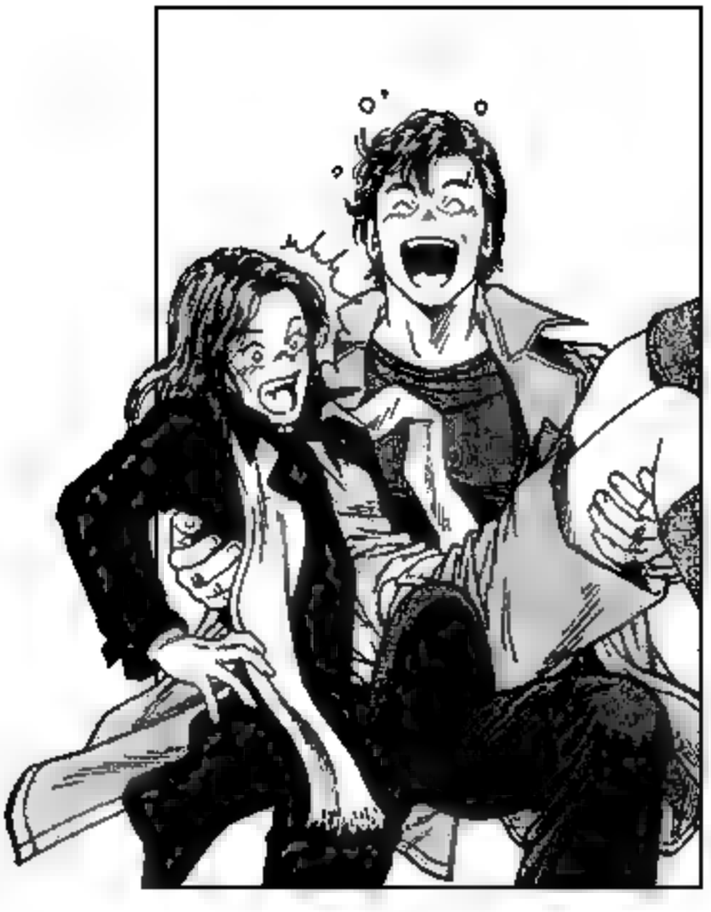



...


I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS DAY ...


BAI LAN!


THE WHITE TIGER EMBLEM —!
BAI LAN HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED INTO WHITE TIGER!?
THE ZHENG DAO HUI'S SPY UNIT WHITE TIGER SPECIALIZES IN ENEMY OBSERVATION AND INTELLIGENCE. THEY SAY ITS SURVIVAL RATE IS THE LOWEST OF THE FOUR UNITS!
SHE GAVE ME THE EMBLEM OF THAT UNIT...
BAI LAN, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ...!?



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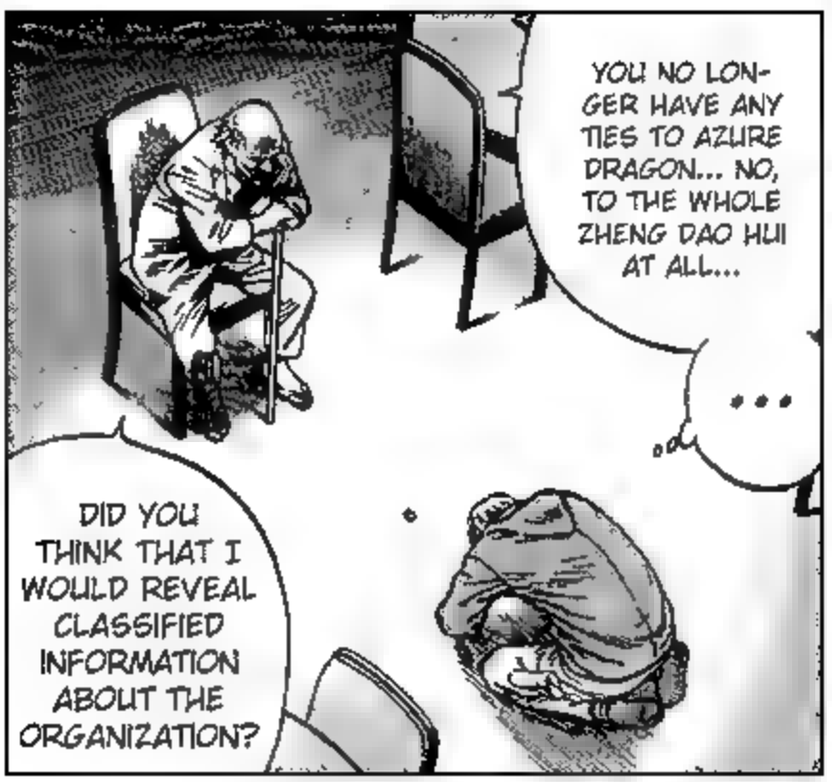

Chapter 118
Bai Lan's
Mission



SHIN-HON...






YOU NO LONGER HAVE ANY TIES TO AZURE DRAGON... NO, TO THE WHOLE ZHENG DAO HUI AT ALL...
...
DID YOU THINK THAT I WOULD REVEAL CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION?


IT IS MY BELIEF THAT SHE IS PREPARED TO DIE...
BAI LAN HAS ENTRUSTED HER TIGER EMBLEM TO ME...


PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS, GRAND CHAMBERLAIN CHEN, BUT...


BESIDES, I HAVE RETIRED, SO EVEN IF I WANTED TO, I—




I KNOW IT IS UNREASONABLE OF ME TO ASK THIS OF YOU, BUT I AM PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES!
SO PLEASE TELL ME THE NATURE OF BAI LAN'S MISSION!


SHE SEEMS TO BE THE FAVORITE ASSISTANT OF A MAN NAMED HAYAKAWA SHUNSUKE AT THE JUN'YO KAI...
中華料理
玄武門


IN SHINJUKU...
ふぅ...
SFX: SIGH


AT ONE OF THEIR UNDERGROUND CASINOS ...
I'VE HEARD THAT THERE IS A WOMAN NAMED BAI LAN AMONG THEIR DEALERS...


THERE IS AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE JUN'YO KAI THAT OPPOSES THE ZHENG DAO HUI...


HAYAKAWA, THAT WOMAN IS SUSPICIOUS!
...
"THAT WOMAN"?
B-2
"Ting"
...
スッ
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS!? THAT CHINESE DEALER, BAI LAN!
"FOLLOWED" ...?
I HAD HER FOLLOWED WHEN SHE WENT OUT TODAY.


ONE WOULD THINK WE COULD EASILY GRAB SPIES BY THEIR TAILS.
BUT THE SUB-ORDINATE I SENT OUT TO OBSERVE HER HAS YET TO CONTACT ME OR RETURN! WHAT DO YOU THINK, HAYAKAWA?
...
IF I HAD, YOU WOULD HAVE OBJECTED!
WITHOUT DISCUSSING IT WITH ME FIRST?
!?
I'M SURE IT WAS THAT WOMAN-



SFX: THUD





SFX: CLICK







SFX STEP



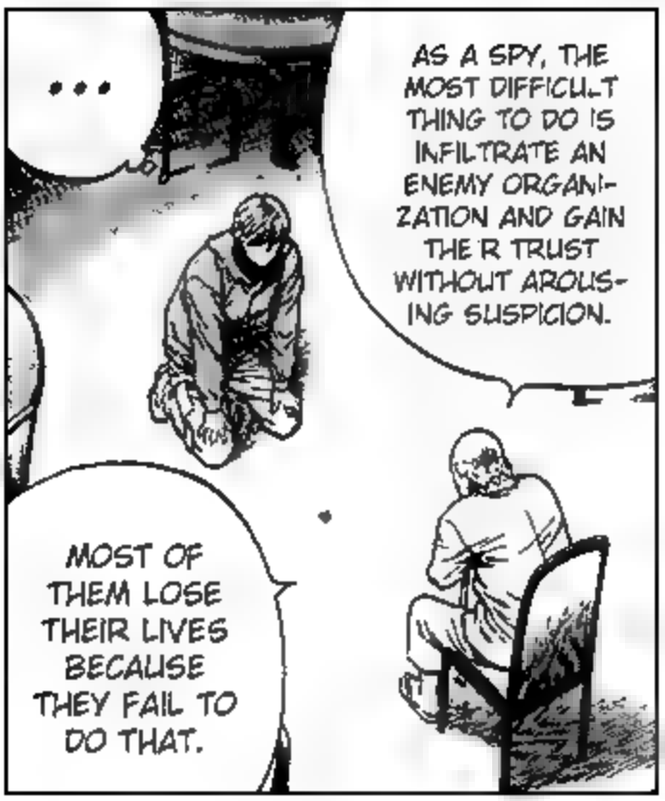



MY BUDDY WAS ON AN IMPORTANT DATE WHEN YOU GUYS TRIED TO PULL OFF THIS UNCOUTH STUNT. I COULDN'T JUST STAY QUIET ABOUT IT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
...
RRR...
"SAEBA"!? Y-YOU'RE THAT...!
ONE OF... "YOUR" PEOPLE?
UH... AH, UH ...
HE SAYS... IT WAS A DATE...
ﾌﾑｯ...
——I'VE HEARD THAT THE ZHENG DAO HUI IS AFTER HAYA-KAWA'S LIFE.

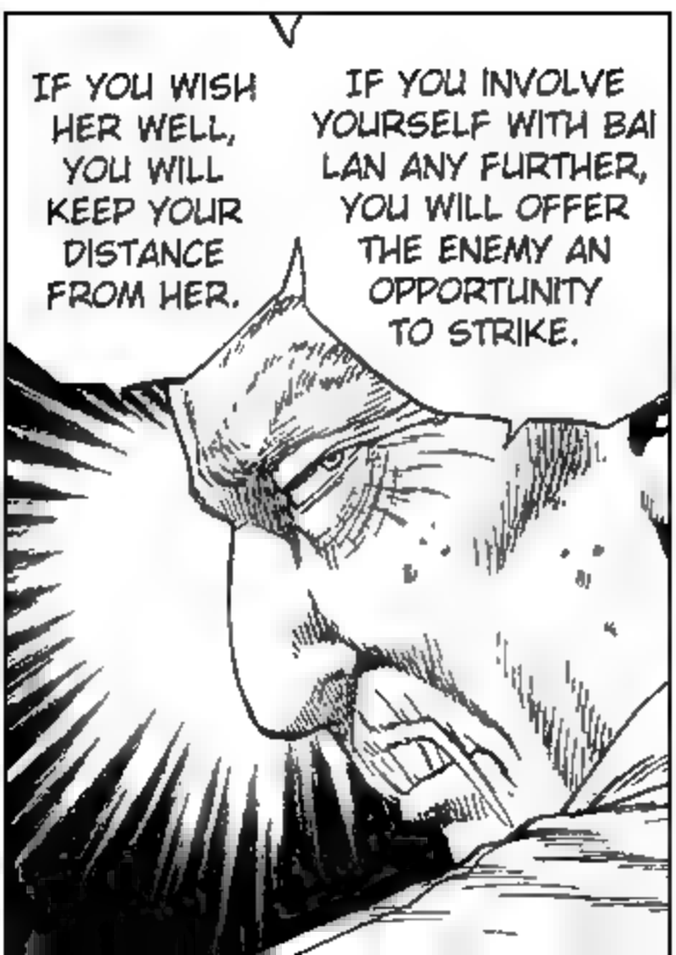

!
I'M AFRAID BAI LAN'S MISSION IS MOST LIKELY TO LEAD HAYAKAWA'S ASSASSINATION.


AS LONG AS THINGS GO ACCORDING TO PLAN, THERE IS NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT.
BAI LAN HAS ALREADY PASSED THAT DANGER AND IS ONLY ONE STEP AWAY FROM COMPLETING HER MISSION.


...


...
AS A SPY, THE MOST DIFFICULT THING TO DO IS INFILTRATE AN ENEMY ORGANIZATION AND GAIN THE R TRUST WITHOUT AROUSING SUSPICION.
MOST OF THEM LOSE THEIR LIVES BECAUSE THEY FAIL TO DO THAT.




IF YOU WISH HER WELL, YOU WILL KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM HER.
IF YOU INVOLVE YOURSELF WITH BAI LAN ANY FURTHER, YOU WILL OFFER THE ENEMY AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE.


IT SEEMS I'VE SAID TOO MUCH ...
PARDON ME ..
HH!


I'LL GIVE YOU THIS PIECE OF ADVICE:
GRAND CHAMBERLAIN CHEN ...

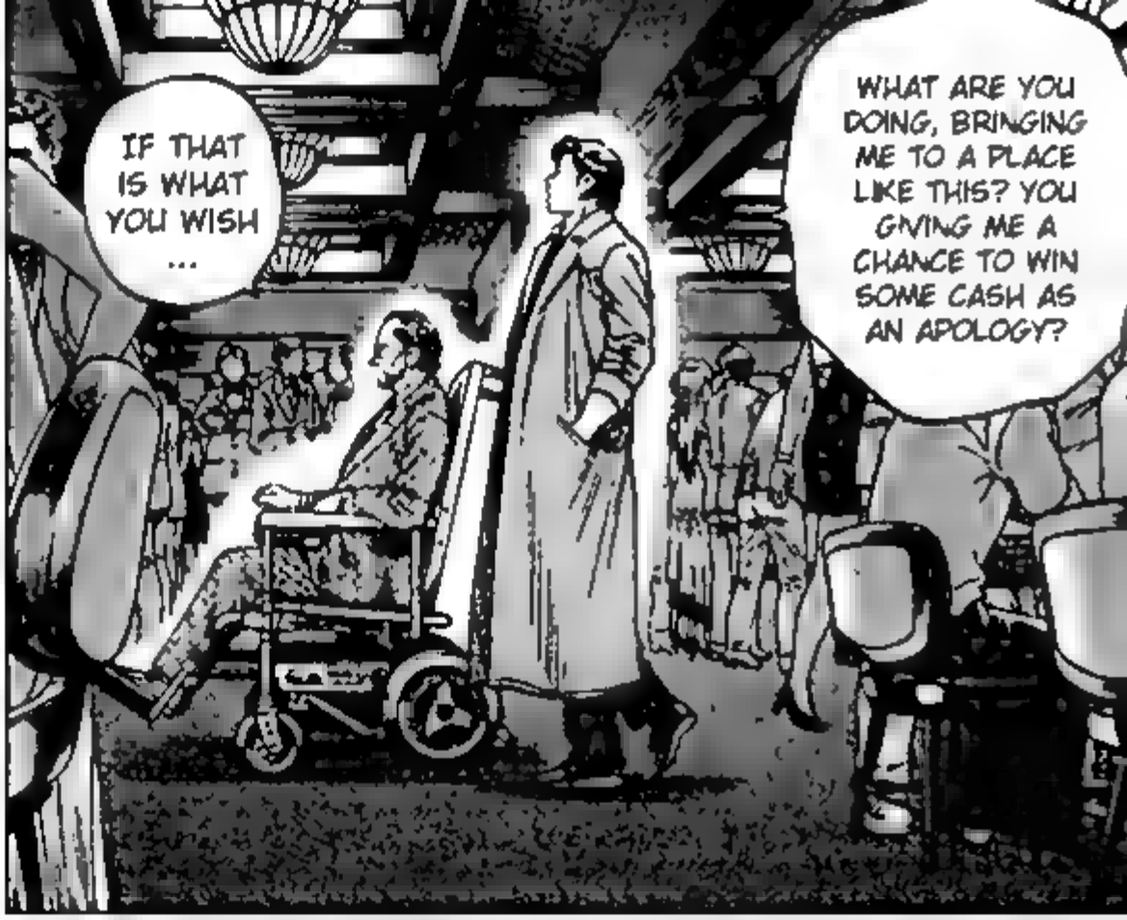

...
隼鷹
HMM ...
SO THIS IS THE JUN'YO KAI'S PRIZED UNDERGROUND CASINO?

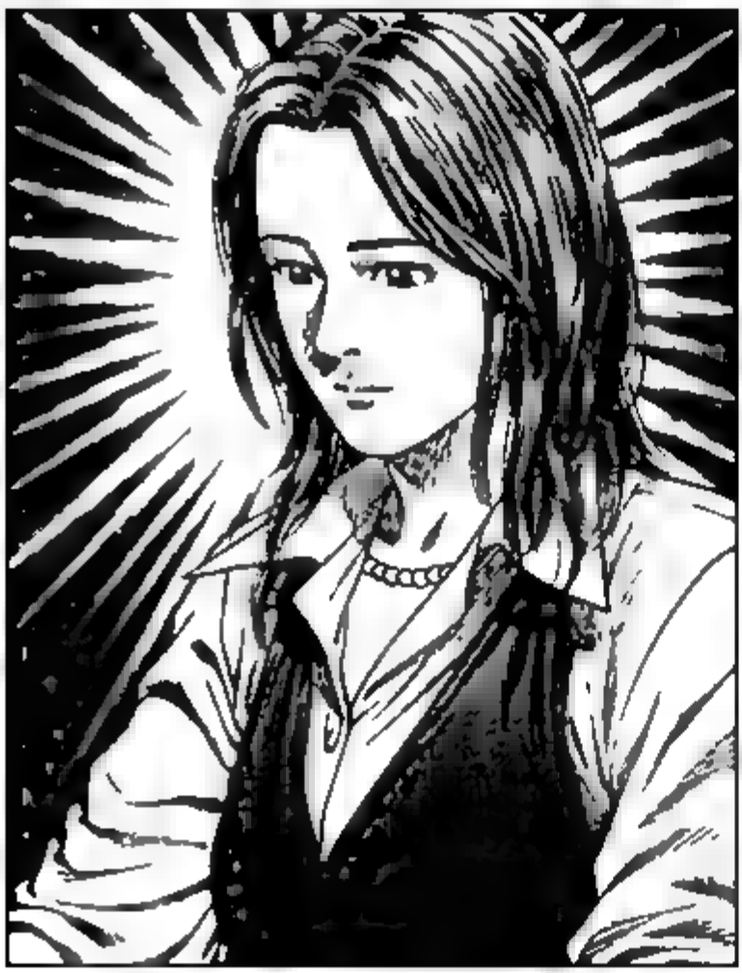


SFX: S UP



SFX: WWW

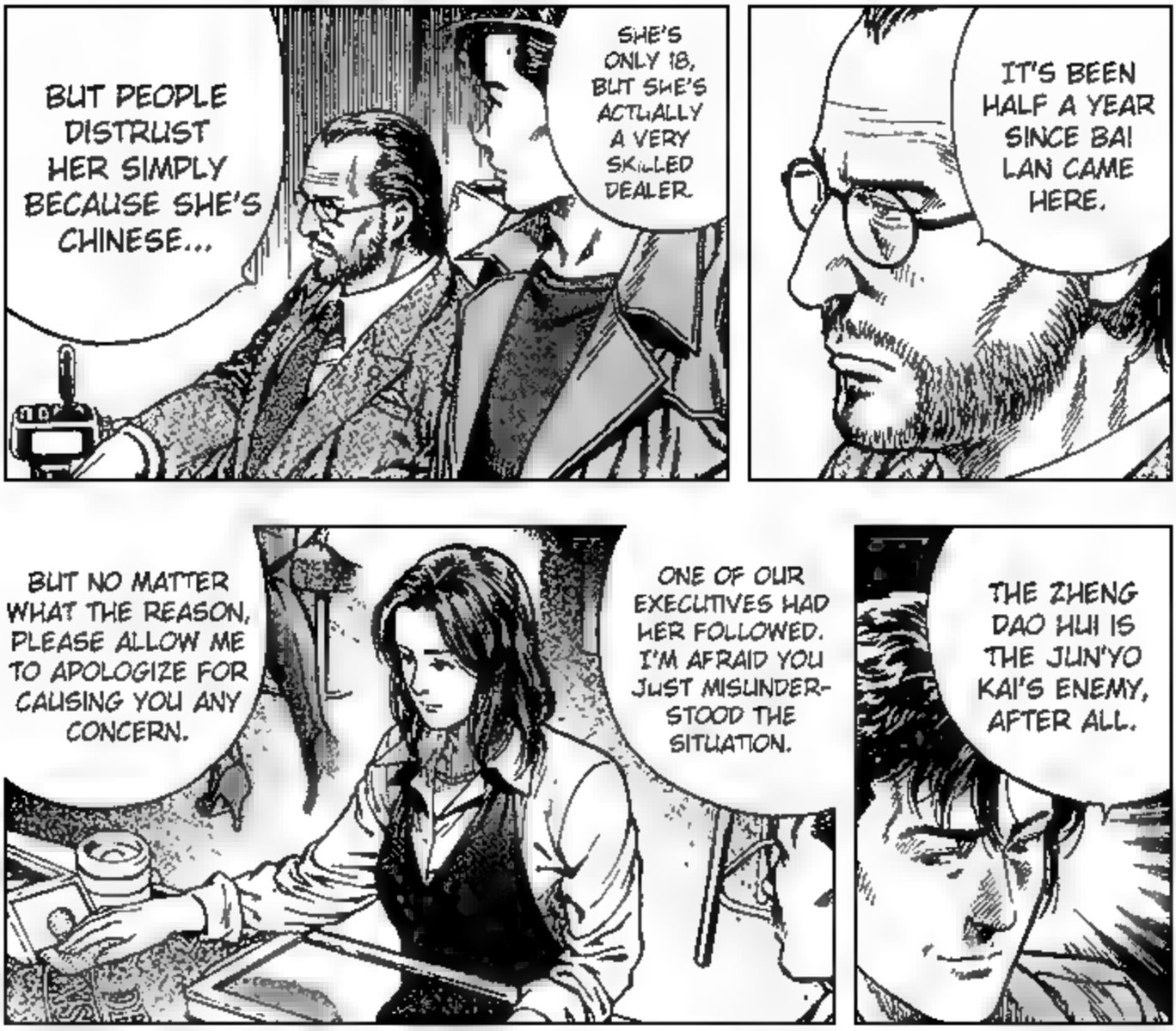

IF THAT IS WHAT YOU WISH ...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BRINGING ME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS? YOU GIVING ME A CHANCE TO WIN SOME CASH AS AN APOLOGY?





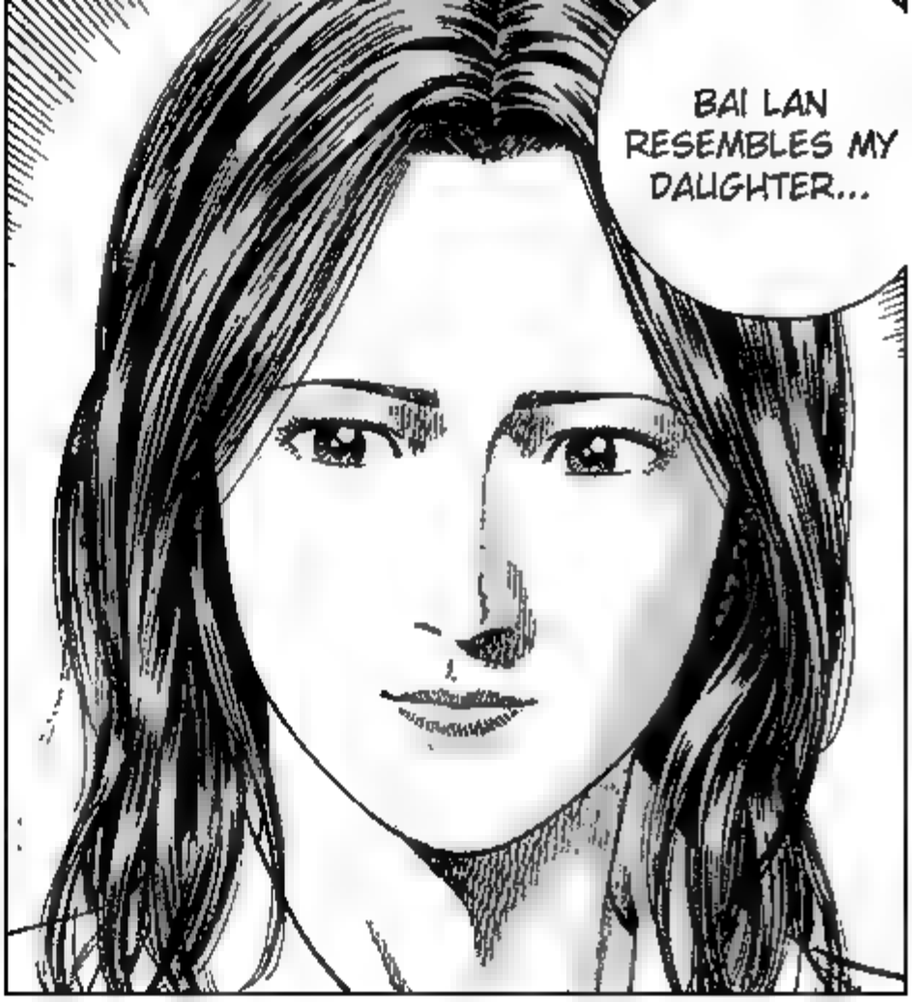





BUT PEOPLE DISTRUST HER SIMPLY BECAUSE SHE'S CHINESE...
SHE'S ONLY 18, BUT SHE'S ACTUALLY A VERY SKILLED DEALER.
IT'S BEEN HALF A YEAR SINCE BAI LAN CAME HERE.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO APOLOGIZE FOR CAUSING YOU ANY CONCERN.
ONE OF OUR EXECUTIVES HAD HER FOLLOWED. I'M AFRAID YOU JUST MISUNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION.
THE ZHENG DAO HUI IS THE JUN'YO KAI'S ENEMY, AFTER ALL.
...
BAI LAN, HUH? WHAT A NICE NAME.


YOU SHOULD KNOW WHY MY RIGHT LEG IS PROSTHETIC.
WHEN YOU LOOK AT HER, YOUR EYES-
IT SEEMS YOU TRUST HER FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART, OR SHOULD I SAY...
...
THAT ACCIDENT STOLE NOT ONLY MY RIGHT LEG...
YEAH, A CAR ACCIDENT, RIGHT?
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER?
BUT A PART OF MY HEART, AS WELL...





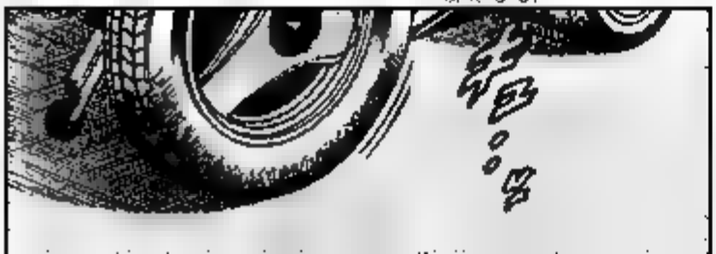






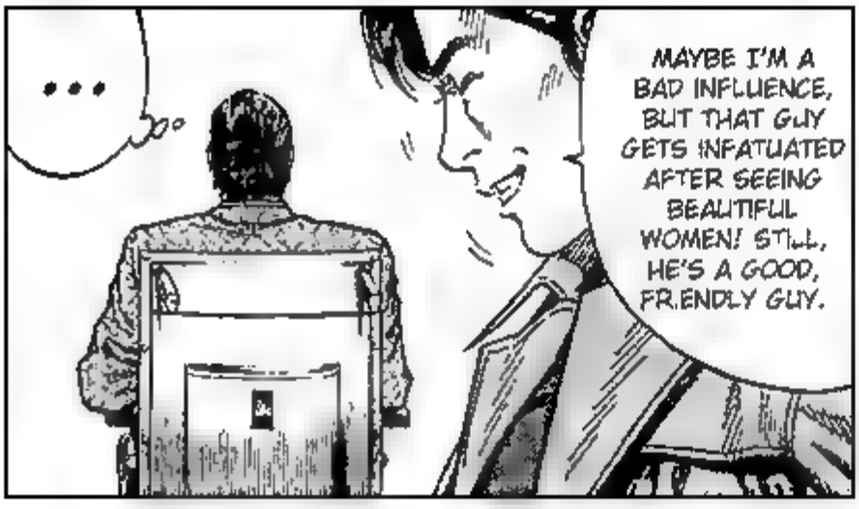


SFX: WHIRR
SFX: STOP




THEY'RE BOTH CHINESE, AFTER ALL...
IT SEEMS THEY GOT ALONG WHEN SHE HAPPENED TO DROP BY UMIBOZU'S PLACE.


BY THE WAY... THAT MAN, SHIN-HON...
WHAT... SORT OF PERSON IS HE?


...
MAYBE I'M A BAD INFLUENCE, BUT THAT GUY GETS INFATUATED AFTER SEEING BEAUTIFUL WOMEN! STILL, HE'S A GOOD, FRIENDLY GUY.


THAT WAS A SILLY QUESTION. I APOLOGIZE.
NO WONDER YOU CONSIDER HIM "ONE OF YOUR PEOPLE"...

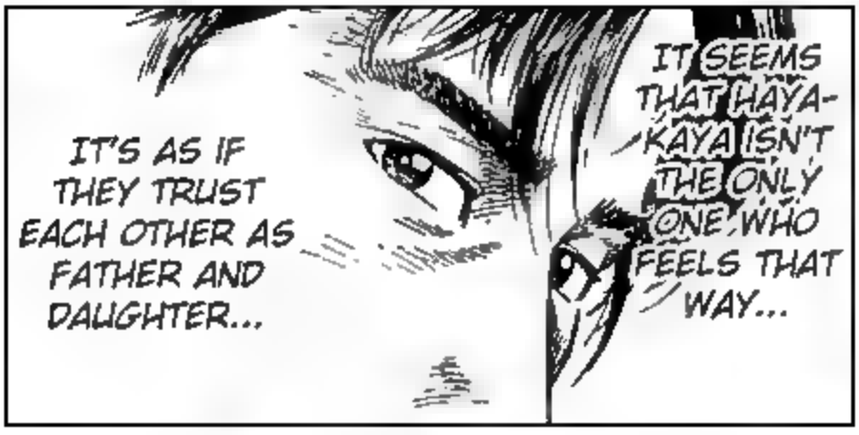



WELL, WELL...
HE'S A FATHER, THROUGH AND THROUGH ...








IT'S AS IF THEY TRUST EACH OTHER AS FATHER AND DAUGHTER...
IT SEEMS THAT HAYA-KAYA ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS THAT WAY...


...


...


BUT... WHAT IS IT...?
ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT... IS HOW BAI LAN IS GAMBLING HER LIFE ON SOMETHING—
HE JUST SHOVED ALL THIS WORK ON ME! HOW LONG IS SHIN-HON GOING TO WANDER THE STREETS OUT THERE!?
...
SFX: PFF
MAN, THIS SUCKS!
SFX: SLAM!
SHUT UP!
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT THE REAL REASON YOU'RE UPSET
CAT



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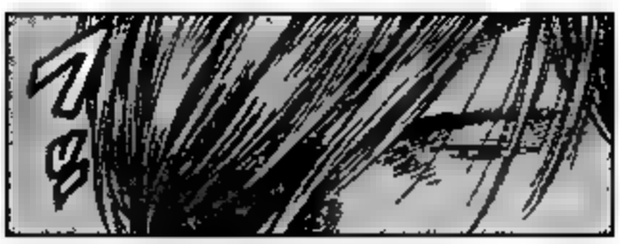


Chapter 119: Inner Insights



SFX: FOOTSTEPS







SFX: MORE OF THE SAME.

SFX: DOOM!

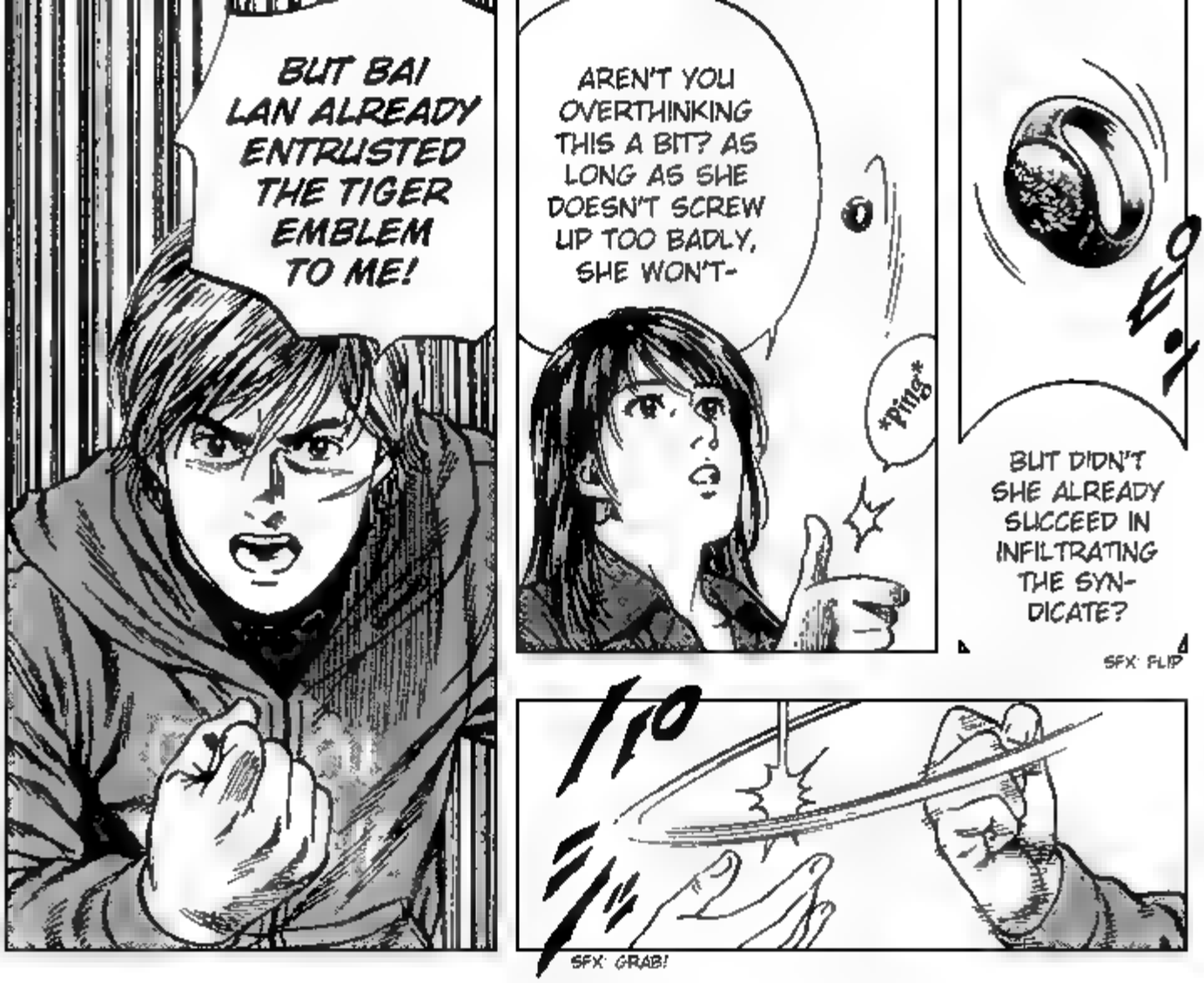






SFX. WOOSH


SO YOU ONLY RETURNED THIS MORNING, HUH!? IF YOU WERE WITH RYO-PAPA, I'LL CRUSH YOU INTO DUST!
...
SHIN-HON ...?
...?
...
Sniff...
SO SHE'S LEADING THE ASSASSINATION OF A CRIME SYNDICATE LEADER...

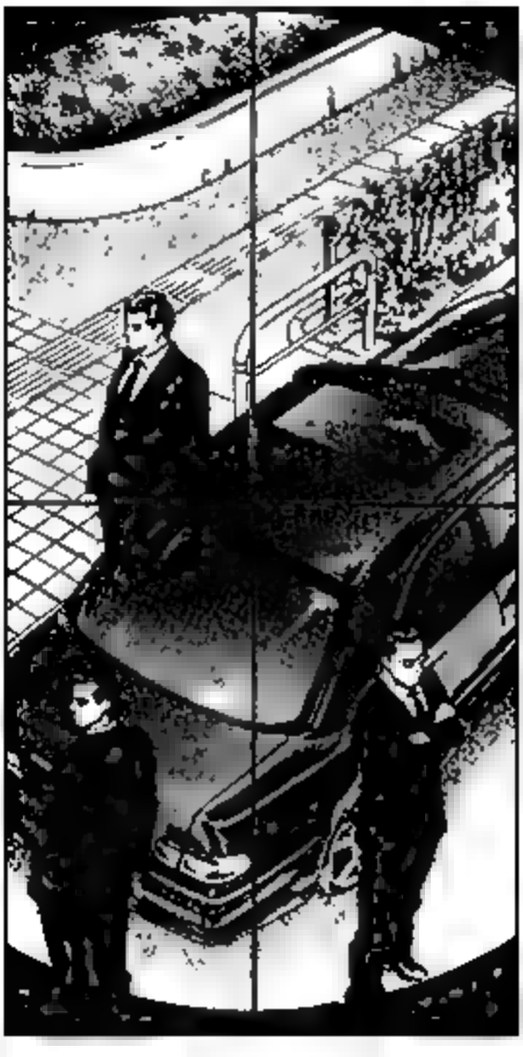

BUT BAI LAN ALREADY ENTRUSTED THE TIGER EMBLEM TO ME!
AREN'T YOU OVERTHINKING THIS A BIT? AS LONG AS SHE DOESN'T SCREW UP TOO BADLY, SHE WON'T-
ping
BUT DIDN'T SHE ALREADY SUCCEED IN INFILTRATING THE SYN-DICATE?
SFX: FLIP
SFX: GRAB!

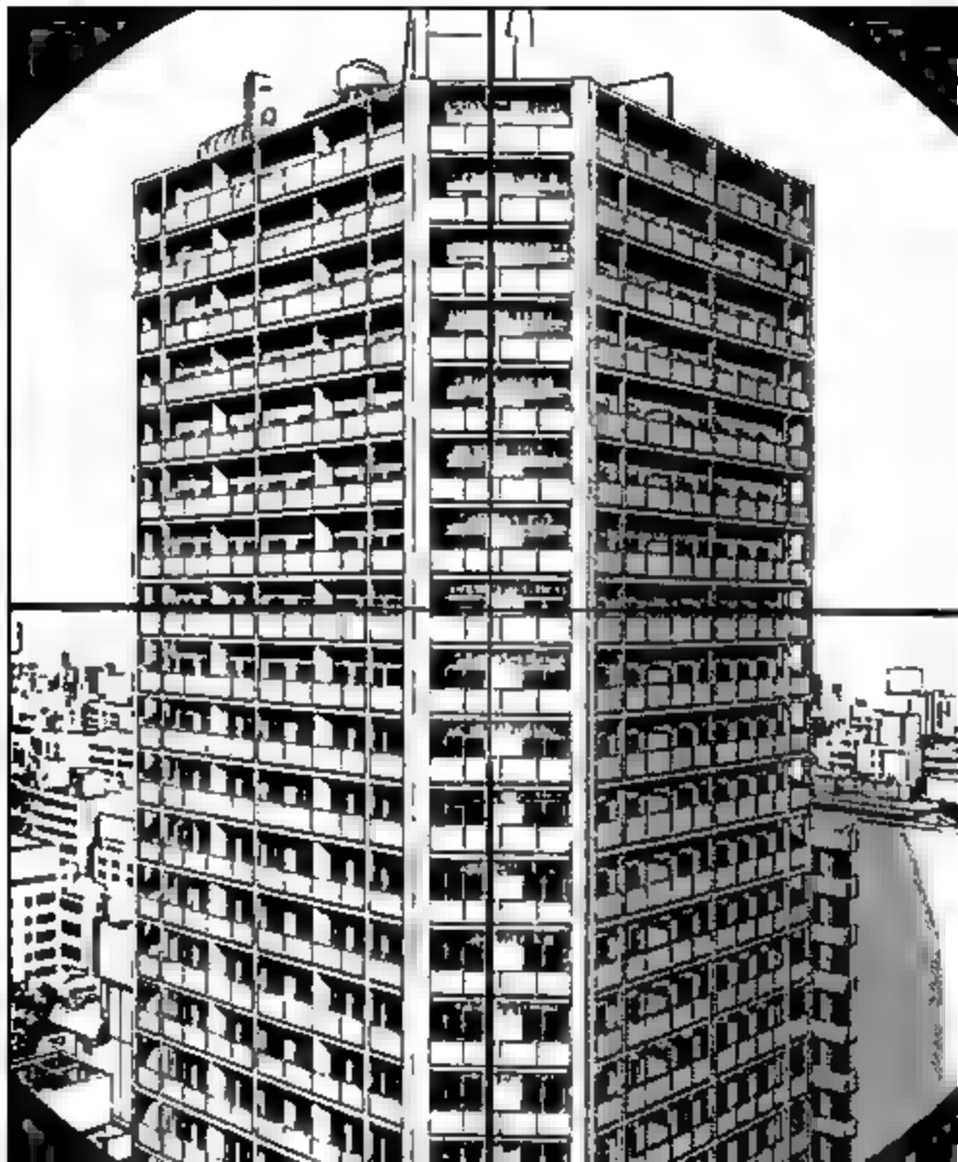

YEAH? SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT, SHIN-HON?
IF THEY START TO DOUBT HER... THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THEY'LL DO TO HER!
IF IT WERE SOMEONE FROM THE JUN'YO KAI...
SHE'S READY TO DIE FOR HER MISSION. SHE WAS FOLLOWED YESTERDAY!
...

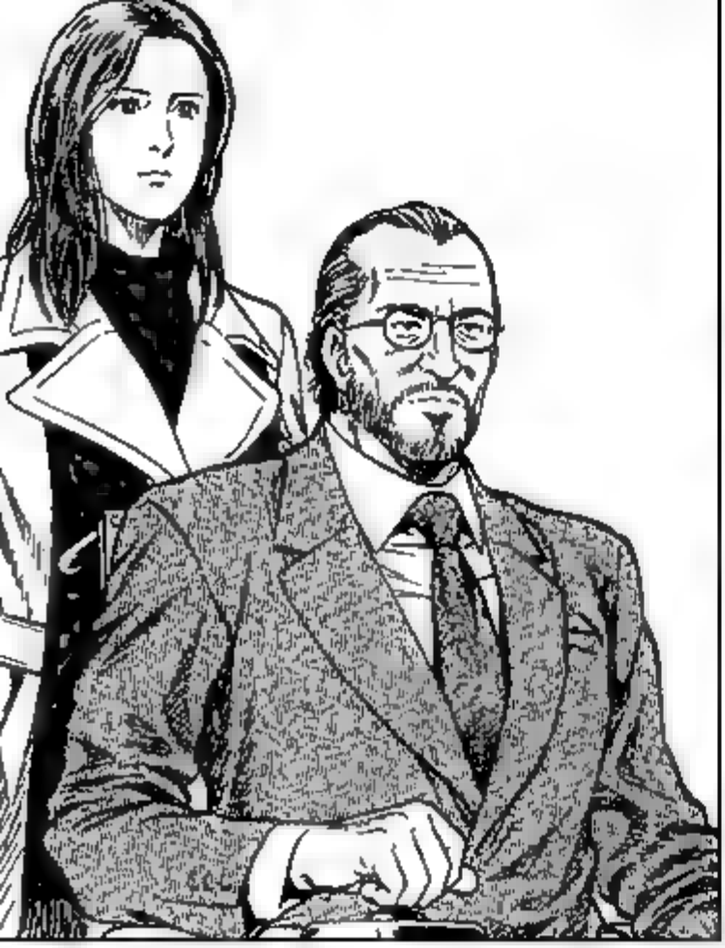

I'LL PROTECT BAI LAN.
I'LL SNEAK INTO THE ORGANIZATION TO STAY WITH HER.
SHANIN !?
YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWED BY THE JUN'YO KAI. THEY ALREADY KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT IF YOU MOVE IN UNPREPARED, YOU'D ONLY BE PUTTING HER IN MORE DANGER!?
...
I'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT ON MY OWN...!
BUT... THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU...
SFX: SQUEEZE


WHA
...
Hu~
It
SFX: THUD
SFX: KABONG!


WHY DON'T YOU COOL DOWN A BIT?
YOU'RE WAY TOO HOT-BLOODED ABOUT THIS!

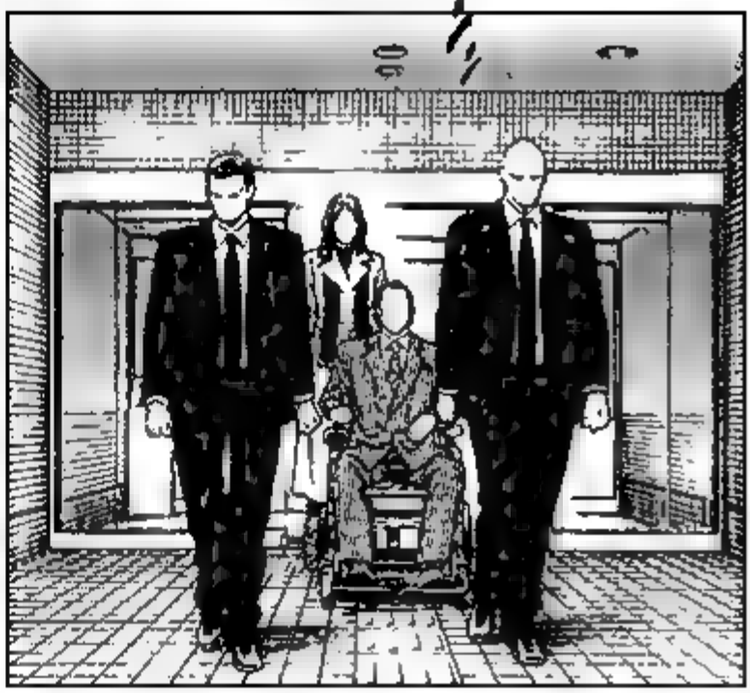






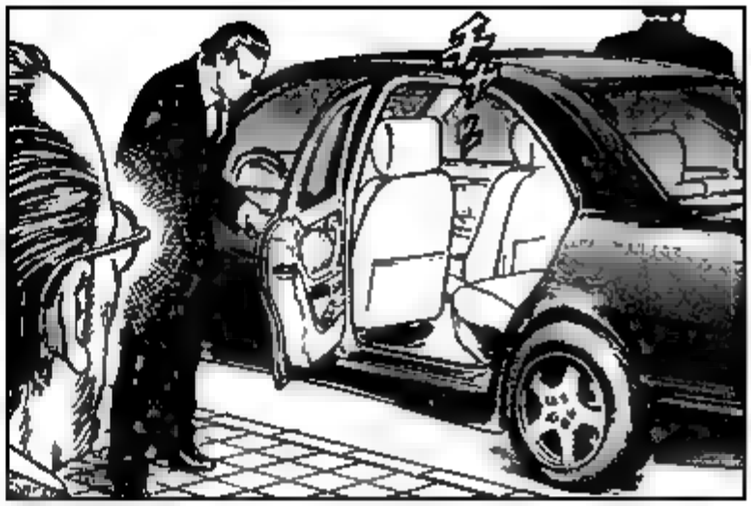


SFX: WWJRR



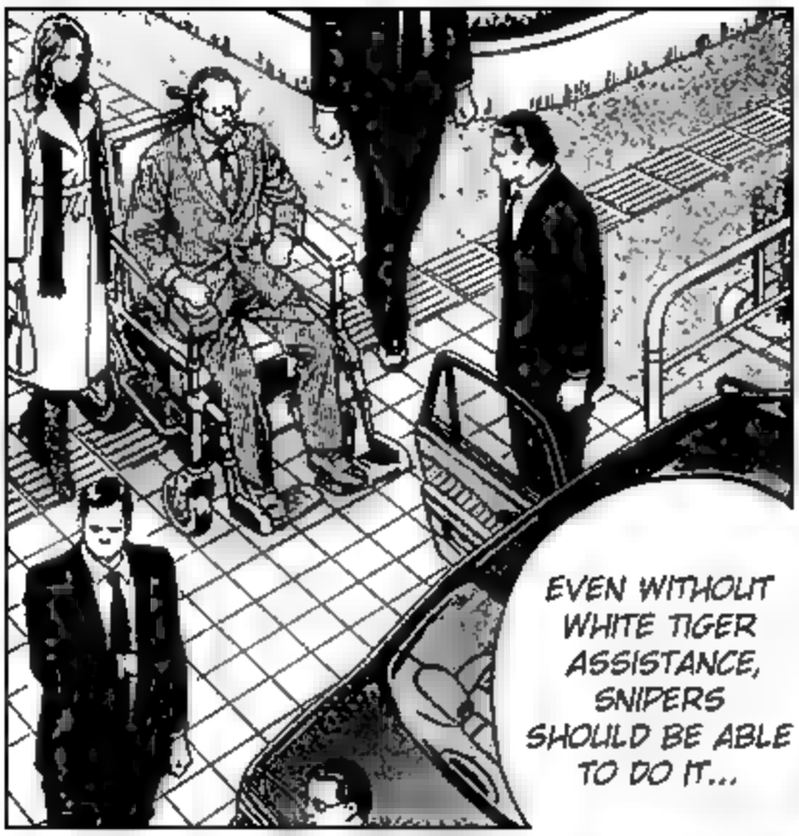


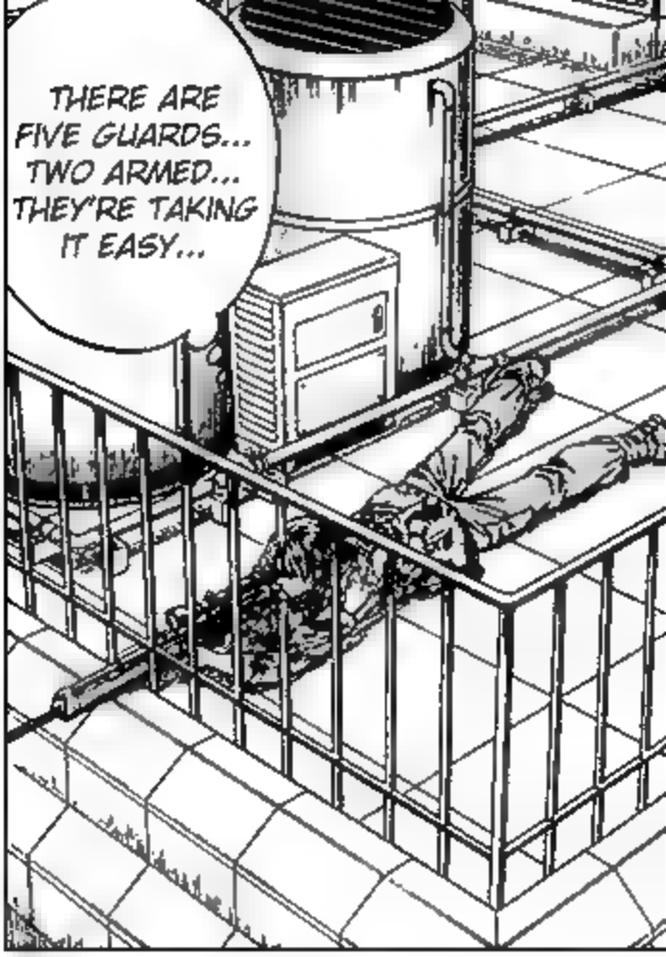
SFX: KA-CHAK



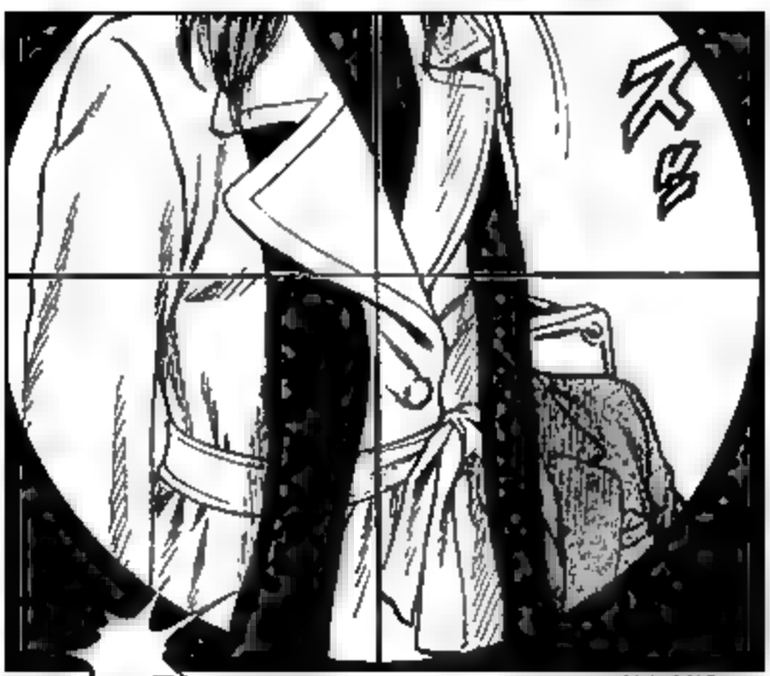


SFX: KA-CLICK


EVEN WITHOUT WHITE TIGER ASSISTANCE, SNIPERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT...


THERE ARE FIVE GUARDS... TWO ARMED... THEY'RE TAKING IT EASY...


LIKE THE SPECIALIZED SNIPERS FROM THE VERMILION BIRD UNIT, LIKE ME...
BUT IT NEEDS SOMEONE CAPABLE OF SNIPING FROM SUCH A LONG DISTANCE...


SFX. STEP




FOR EITHER THE VERMILION BIRD SNIPER OR THE WHITE TIGER INFILTRATOR...
FACTORING IN BAI LAN'S SUCCESSFUL INFILTRATION ON TOP OF THAT, THIS ISN'T SUCH A DANGEROUS MISSION...




BAI LAN ...!?


...
WHAT'S WRONG, BAI LAN?


NO IT'S NOTHING ..


...


SFX: TRAFFIC

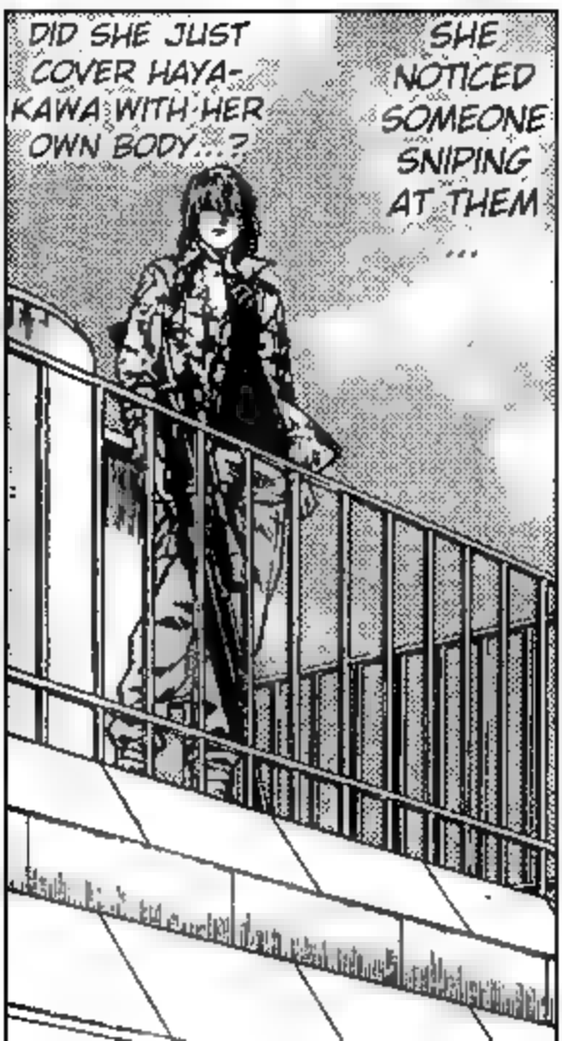

PLEASE GET INTO THE CAR, MR HAYAKAWA.


...


SFX: CLICK.


SHE'S SUPPOSED TO COVER FOR THE SNIPER AND LEAD THE ASSASSI-NATION...
BUT WHY ...?




DID SHE JUST COVER HAYA-KAWA WITH HER OWN BODY...?
SHE NOTICED SOMEONE SNIPING AT THEM ...


...






HMM
...


SFX. WHIRR
PLEASE GET SOME REST!


YOU MUST BE TIRED... WE'RE HOME...

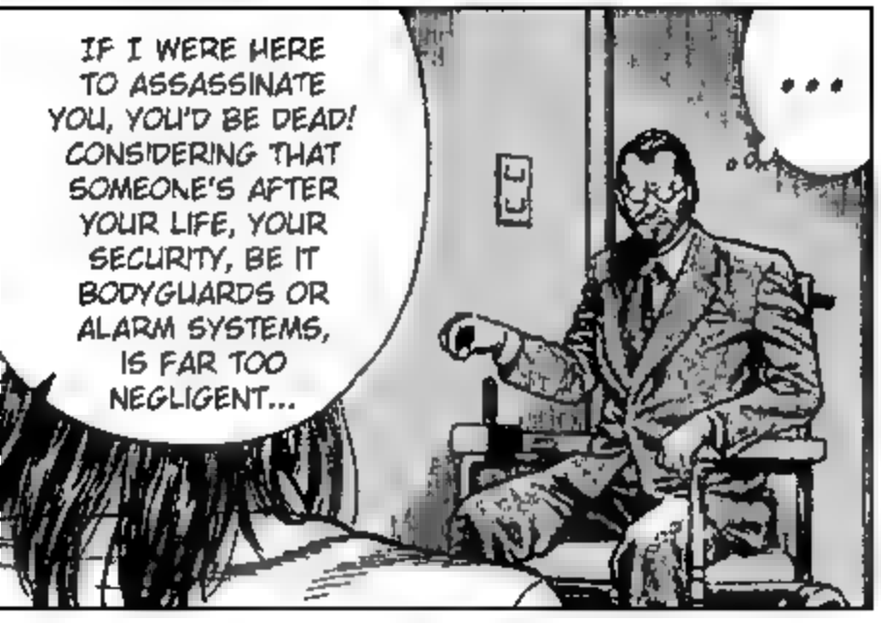

YOU MUST BE TIRED, BAI LAN...
31
"Ting"
NOT REALLY... COMPARED TO ME, MR HAYA-KAWA, YOU DON'T LOOK TOO WELL...
...
LET ME DRAW A BATH FOR YOU. SO PLEASE RELAX YOUR FATIGUE AWAY.
3104
早川
THANK YOU...
BUT I'D PREFER TO JUST LIE DOWN IN BED...
WELL THEN, GOOD NIGHT... BAI LAN...
GOOD NIGHT, MR HAYA-KAWA.
...
YES?
BAI LAN ...


NEVER MIND... GOOD NIGHT...
AH...
NO ...
HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GOING TO CALL ME "MR HAYAKAWA"?
YES ...?
YOU KNOW I—

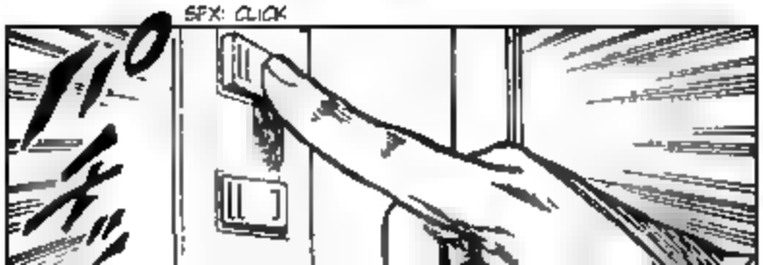

...


SFX: HMPH
SFX: GASP!
THAT'S THE SECOND TIME TODAY THAT YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!
SFX: WHIRR


WHO ARE YOU ...?


IF I WERE HERE TO ASSASSINATE YOU, YOU'D BE DEAD! CONSIDERING THAT SOMEONE'S AFTER YOUR LIFE, YOUR SECURITY, BE IT BODYGUARDS OR ALARM SYSTEMS, IS FAR TOO NEGLIGENT...
...


AND RIGHT NOW, WHEN YOU CAME BACK INTO THIS ROOM!
ONCE, THIS MORNING WHEN YOU LEFT THIS HOUSE...

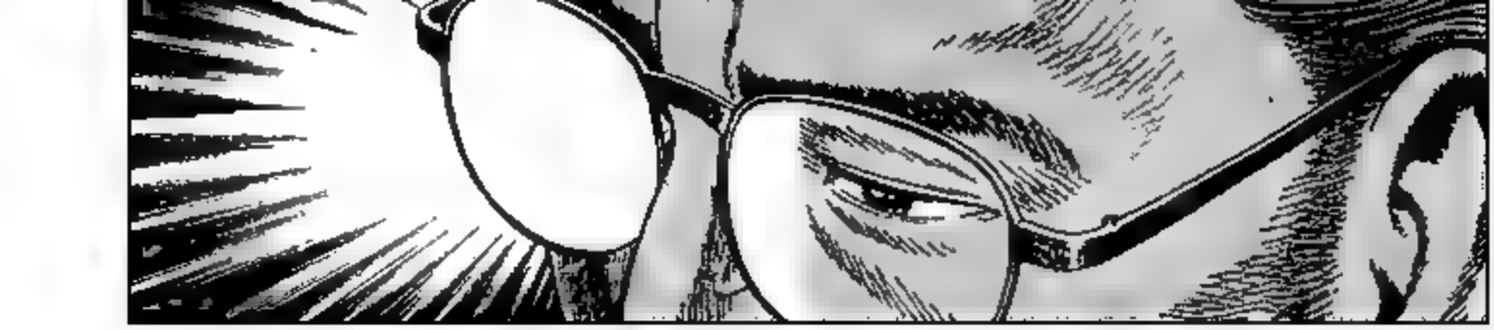

SFX: CLICK


A GIRL ...!?
SFX: SHOCK.


CITY HUNTER!

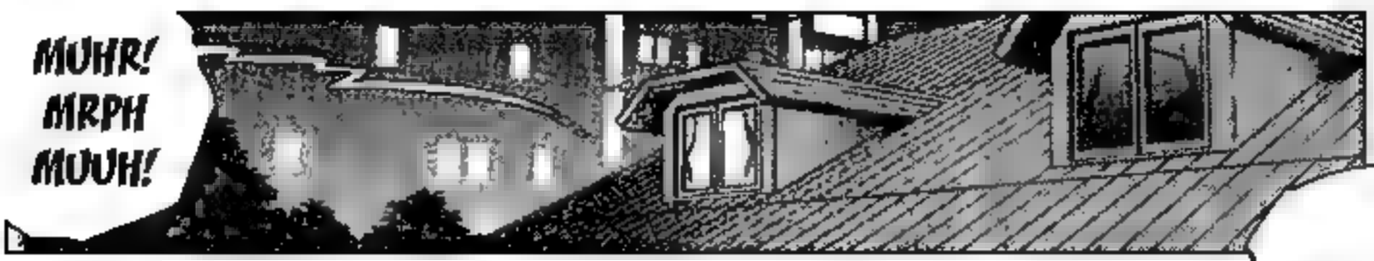

...
WHAT DO YOU THINK? WANNA HIRE ME? I'D DO A GOOD JOB PROTECT-ING YOU!

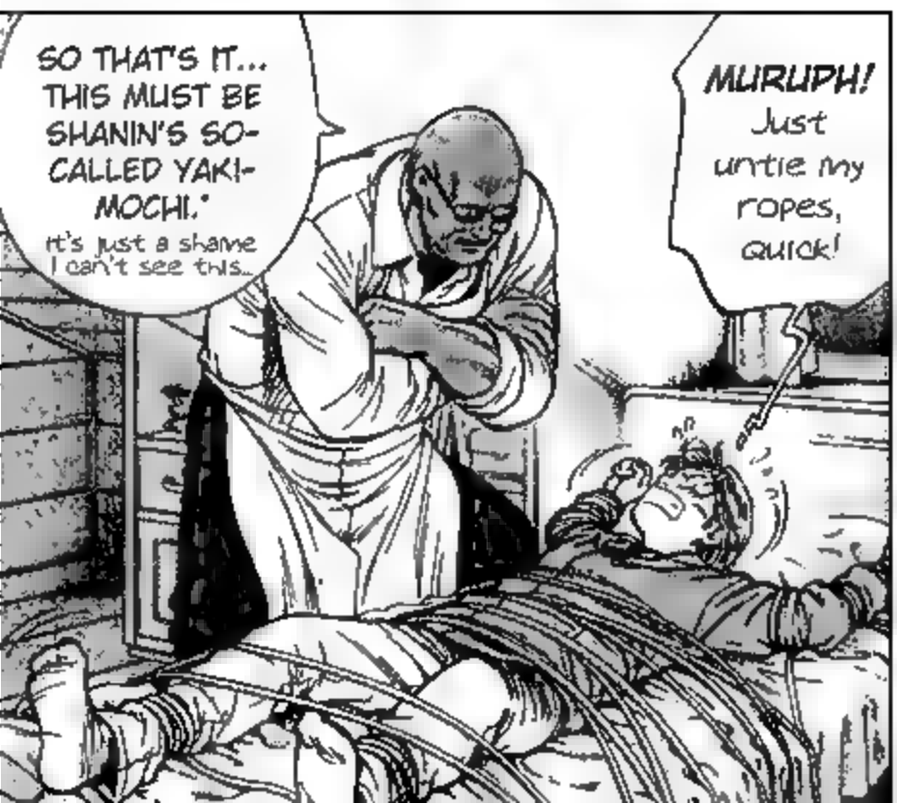

WHO ARE YOU?



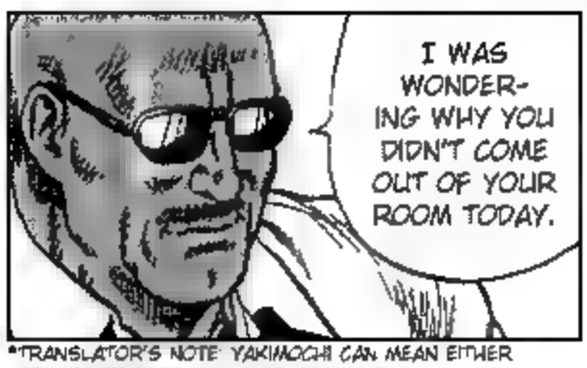












*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: YAKIMOCHI CAN MEAN EITHER GRILLED/BROILED MOCHI OR JEALOUSY



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Chapter 120 Blessed Child from God




...
"JOKES"?
WON'T YOU PLEASE STOP THE JOKES, ALREADY?
THE CITY HUNTER I KNOW...
I'M QUITE SERIOUS, HERE. I'LL GUARD YOU AS CITY HUNTER!
ARE YOU ...
AN ACQUAIN-TANCE OF RYO-PAPA'S?
ISN'T A GIRL. IT'S A MAN BY THE NAME OF RYO SAEBA.


I AM RYO SAEBA'S DAUGHTER, SHANIN!
PAPA ...?
SAEBA'S ...!?
... DAUGH-TER!
...
MAN, HOW CARELESS OF YOU...
...
COFFEE HOUSE CAT'S EYE
HEY! IS ANYONE HERE?

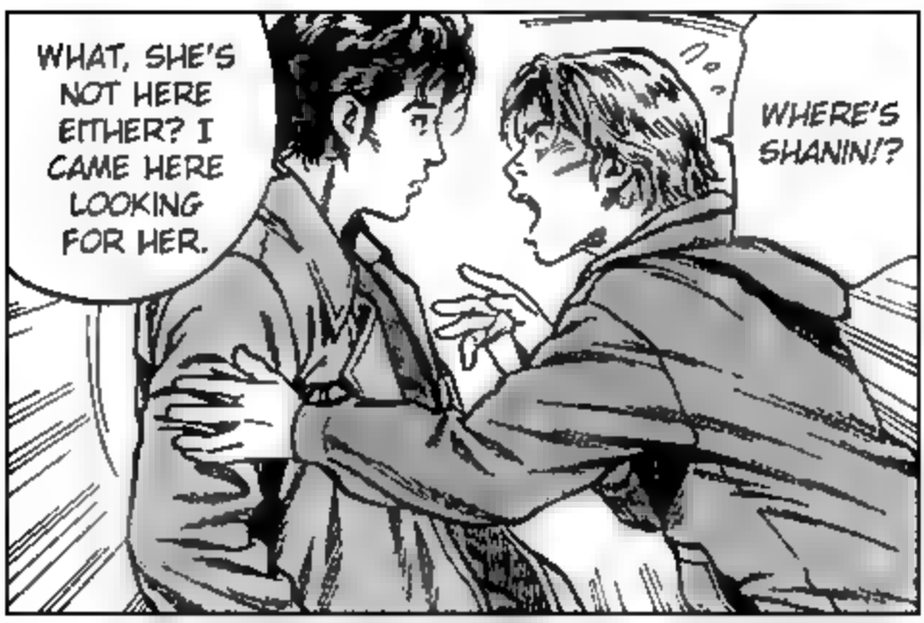


SFX. SLAM





SFX. THUMP, THUD





SFX. DASH





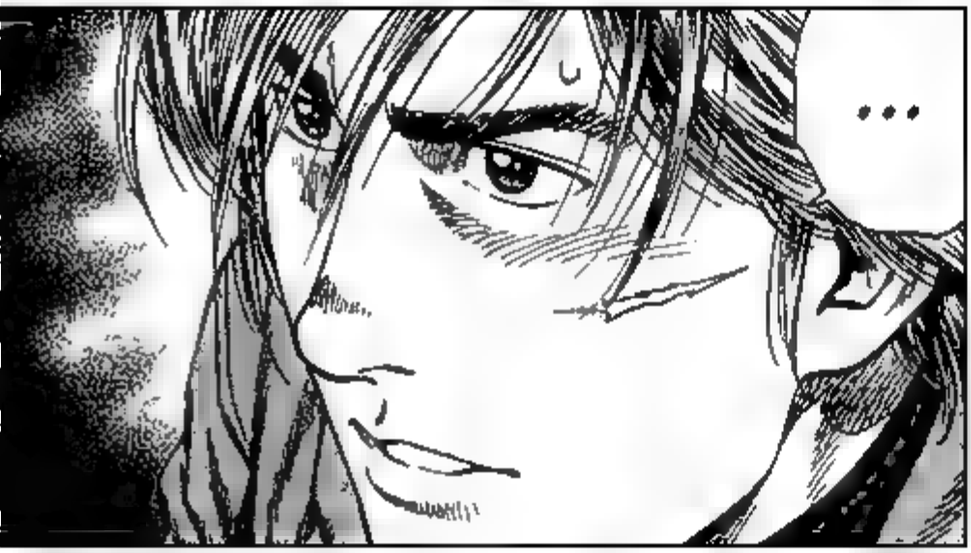

BAI LAN ...?


LET GO OF ME! BAI LAN, SHE'S-
HEY, SHIN-HON !?


SHIN-HON!

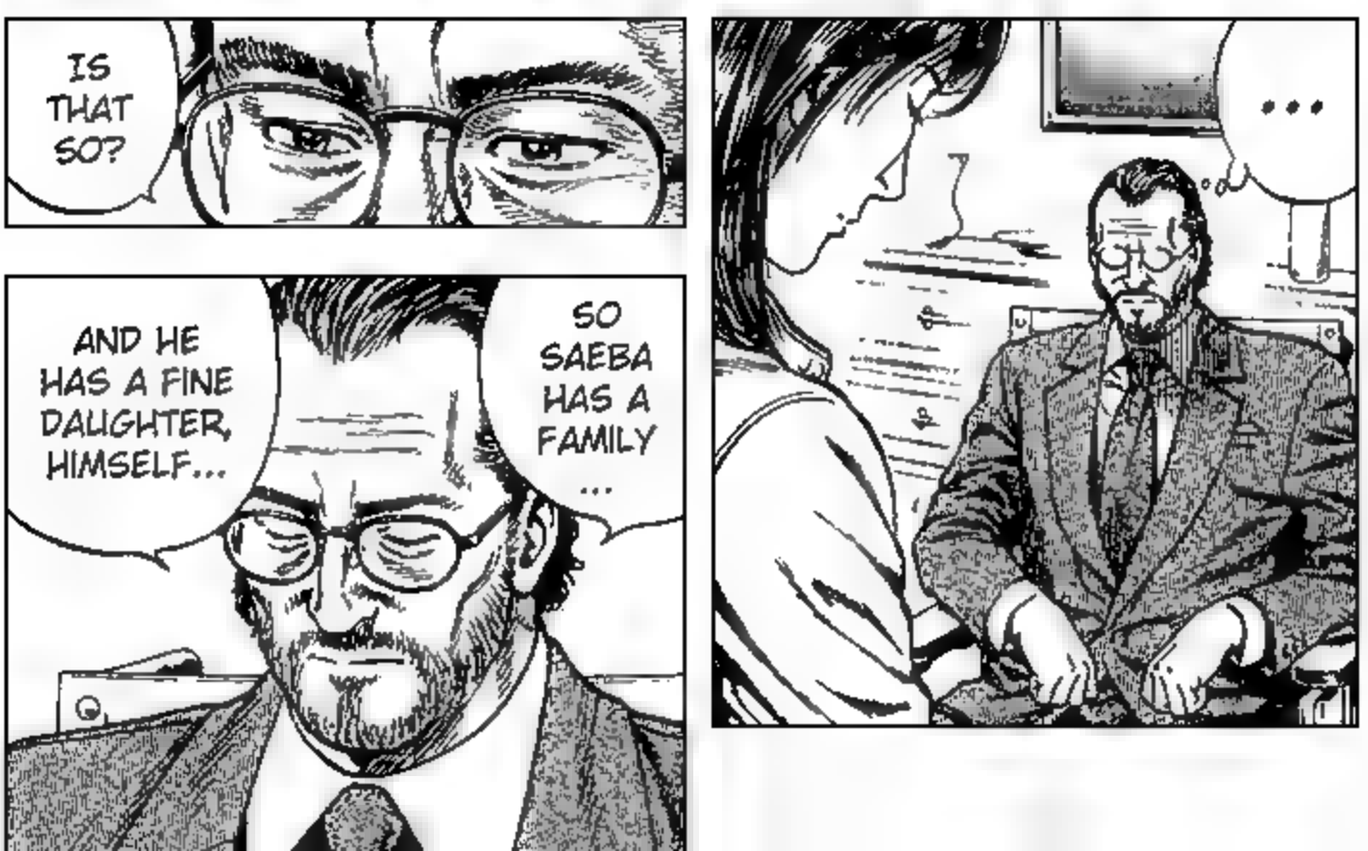

EVERY-THING YOU KNOW?
WON'T YOU TELL US...


...
JUST WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?


...



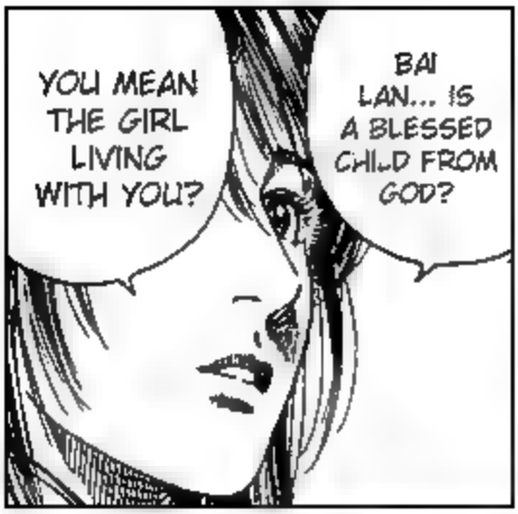

WITHIN ME, KAORI-MAMA LIVES ON.
...
YES. IT'S BECAUSE OF KAORI-MAMA'S HEART THAT I'M STILL ALIVE...
MS KAORI'S HEART...
THIS HEART IS WHAT TIES OUR FAMILY TOGETHER.
IS WITHIN YOUR BODY?


IS THAT SO?
AND HE HAS A FINE DAUGHTER, HIMSELF...
SO SAEBA HAS A FAMILY ...
...

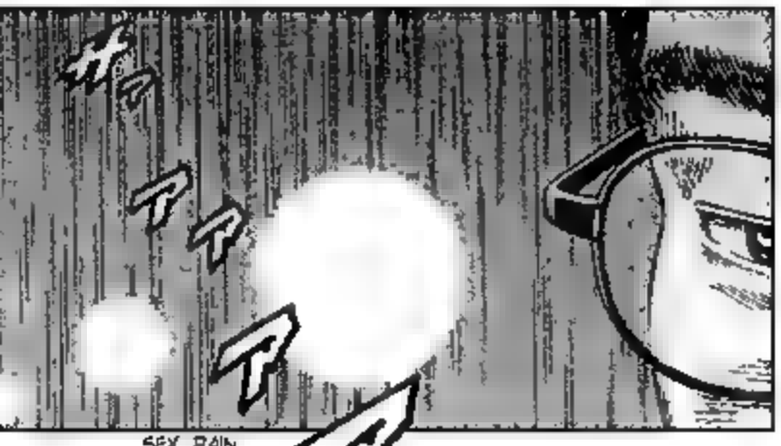

JUST LIKE BAI LAN IS TO ME...

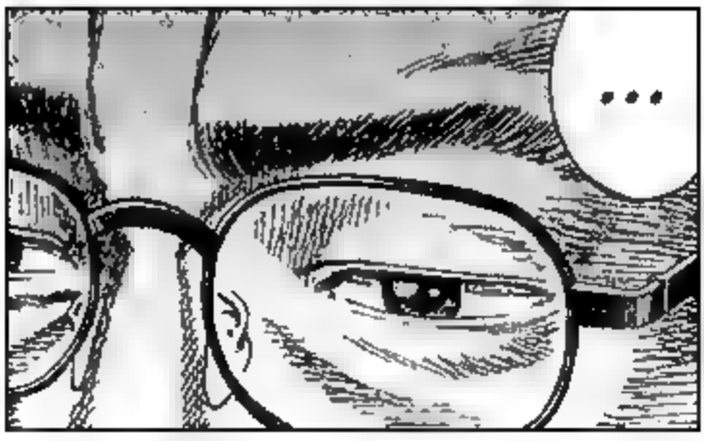

TO SAEBA, YOU ARE A BLESSED CHILD FROM GOD...


...?


YOU MEAN THE GIRL LIVING WITH YOU?
BAI LAN... IS A BLESSED CHILD FROM GOD?




SFX. RAIN


...


WHA
!?

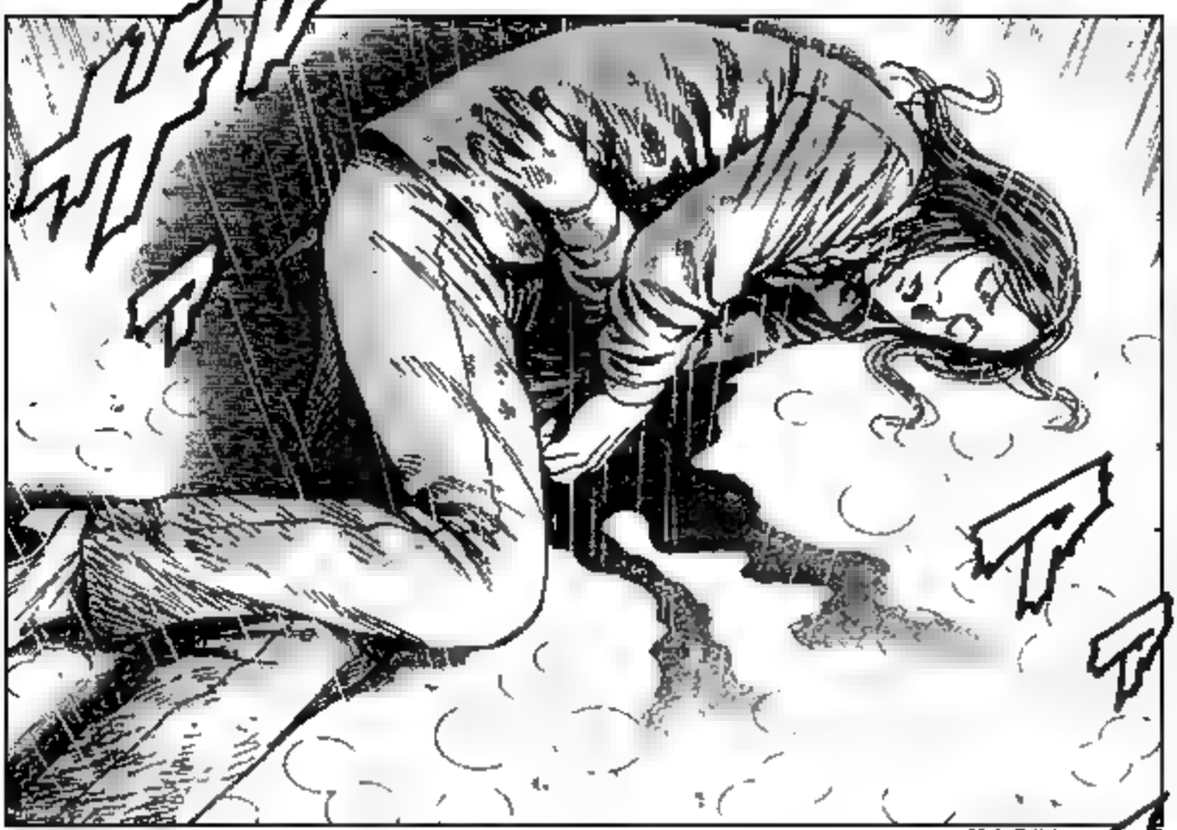

I-I'M SORRY, SIR! ALL OF A SUDDEN, SOMEONE-
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SON OF A BITCH! YOU WANT TO GET KILLED!?



SFX: SPLASH

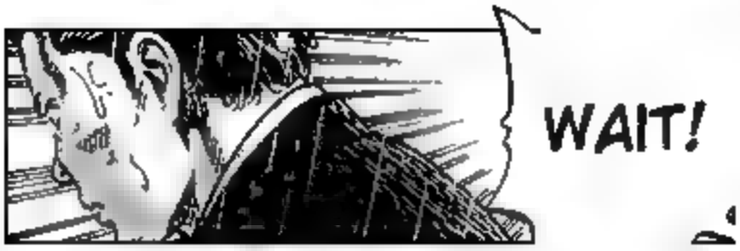


SFX: MOAN



SFX: RAIN





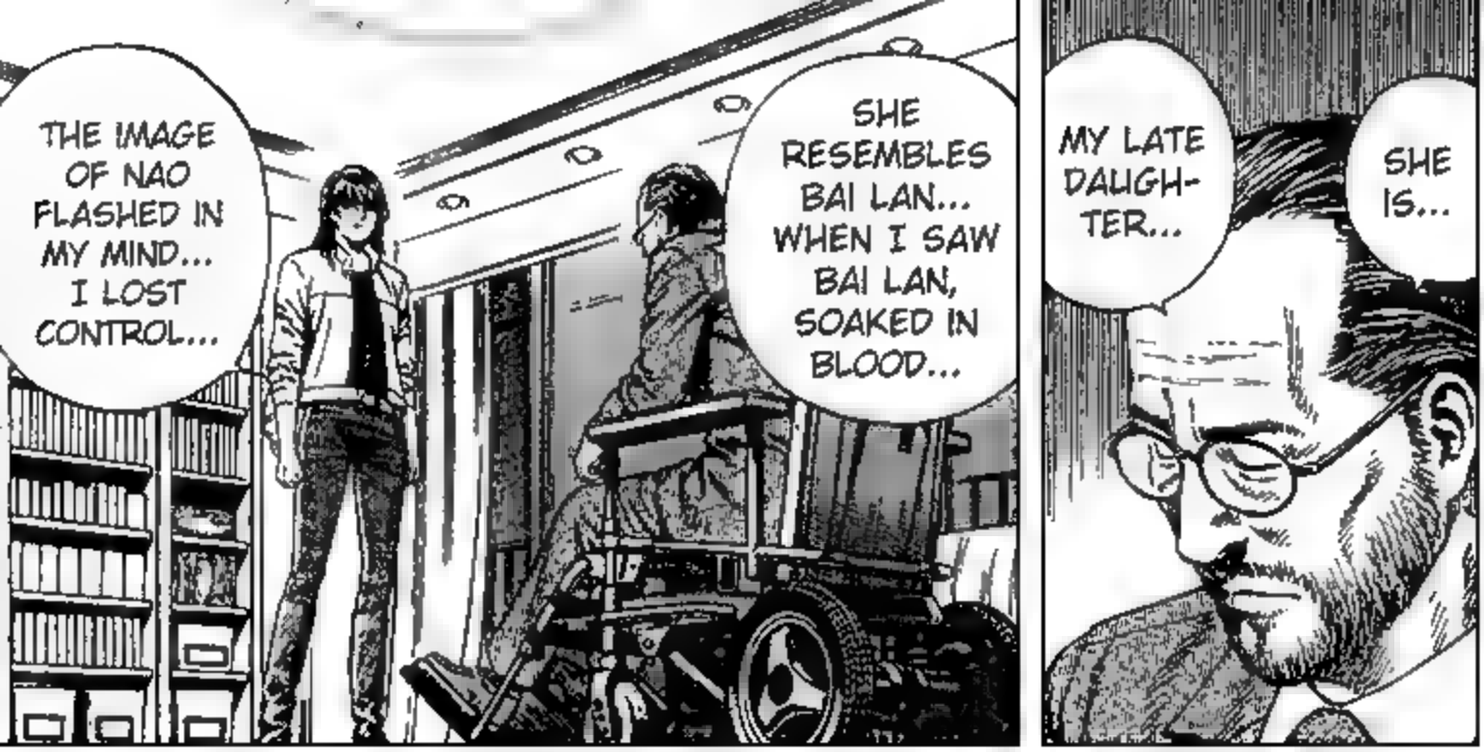
SFX: STEP

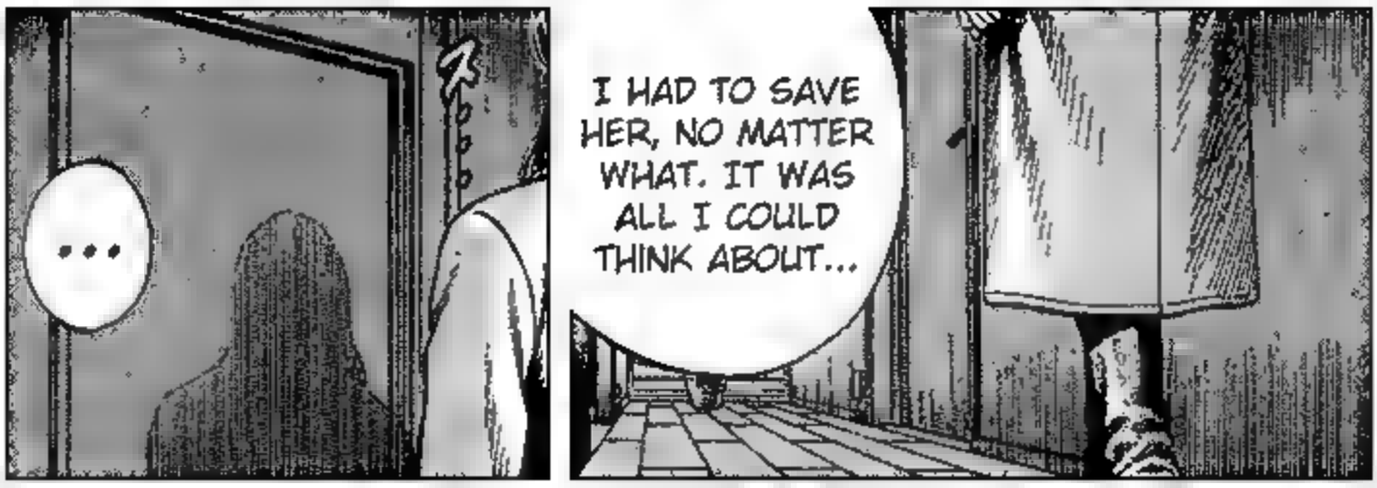


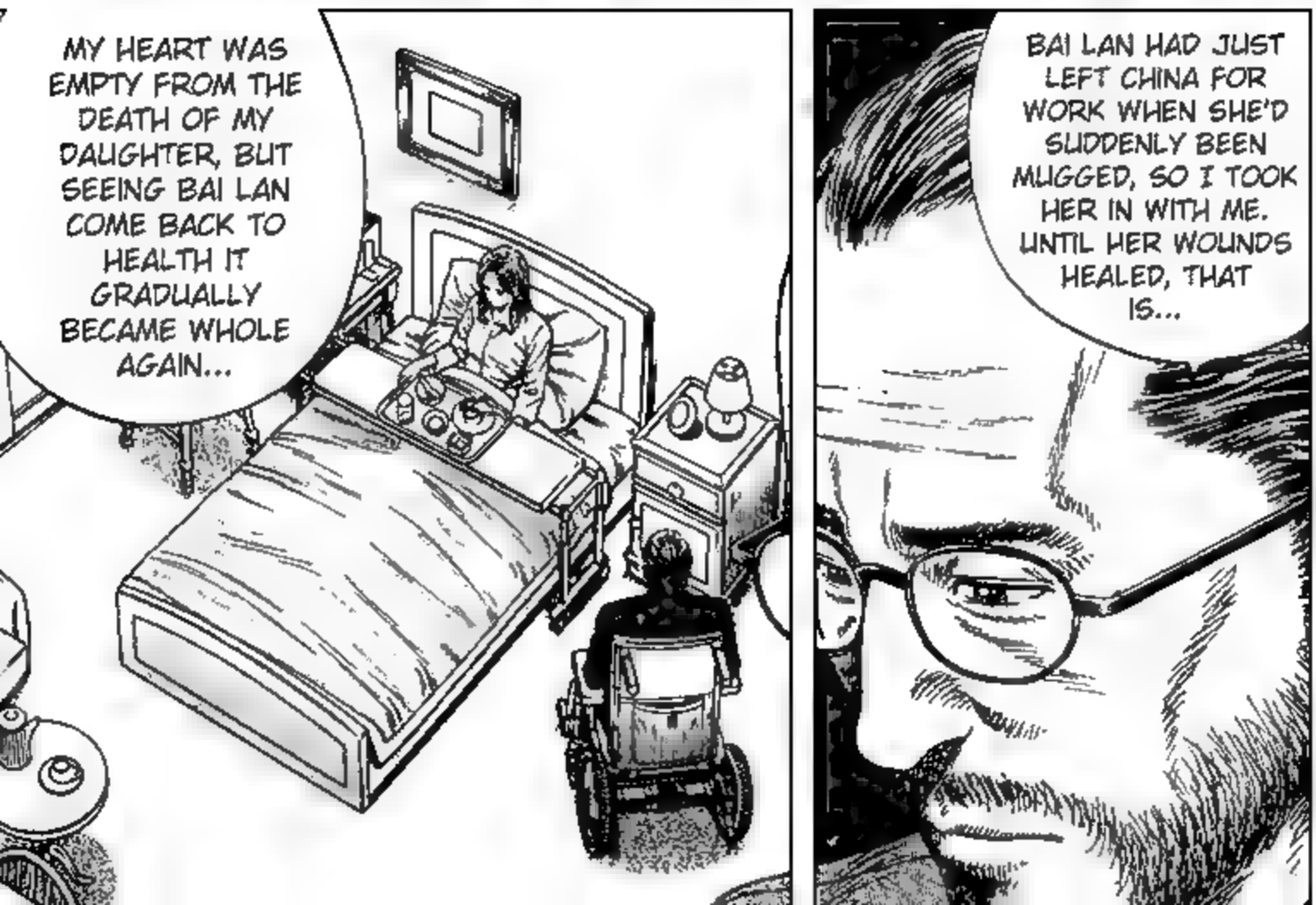



B-
BOSS
...!
NAO...
NAO...


NA-
NAO!
...
NAO?

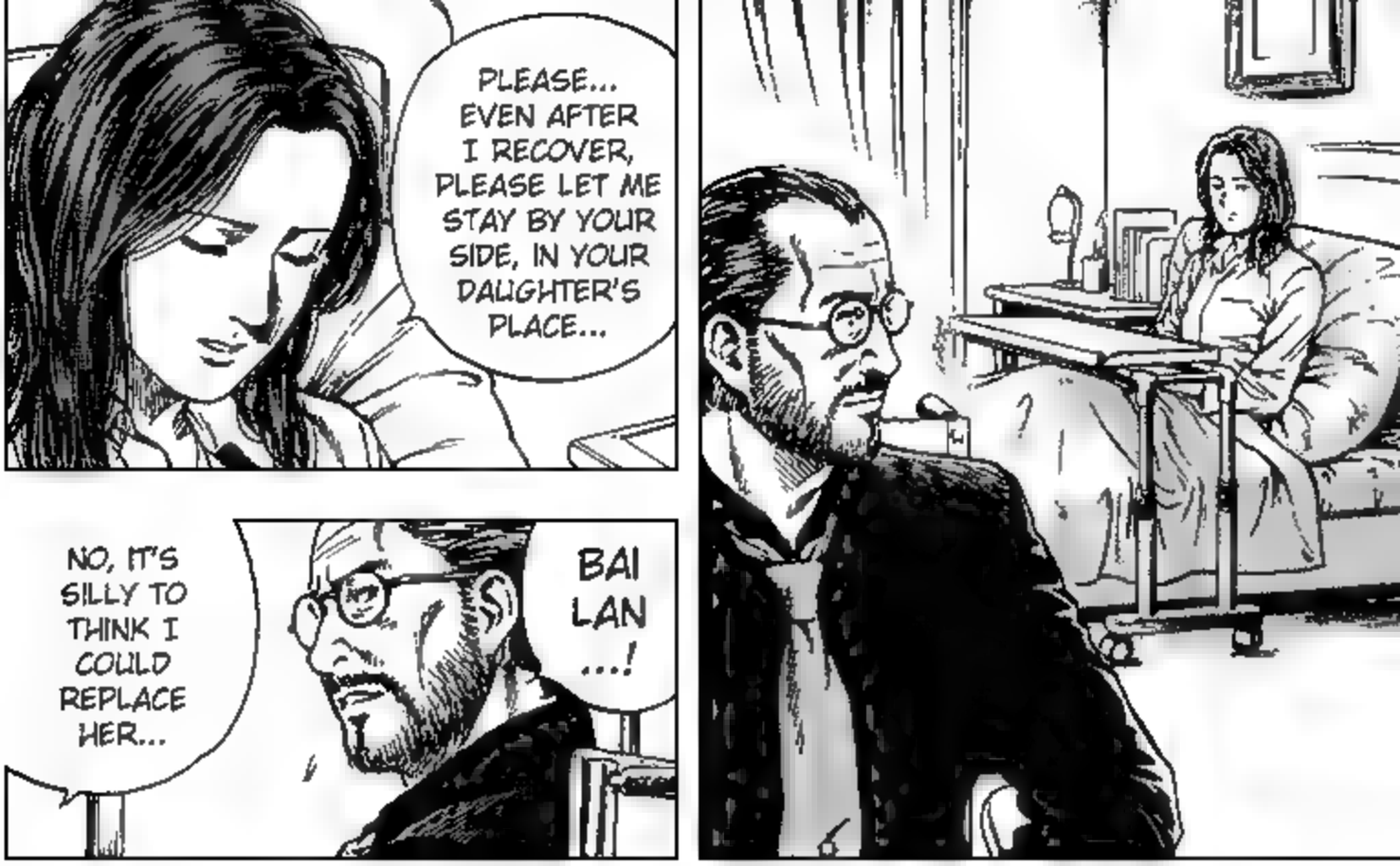

THE IMAGE OF NAO FLASHED IN MY MIND... I LOST CONTROL...
SHE RESEMBLES BAI LAN... WHEN I SAW BAI LAN, SOAKED IN BLOOD...
MY LATE DAUGH-TER...
SHE IS...


...
I HAD TO SAVE HER, NO MATTER WHAT. IT WAS ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT...

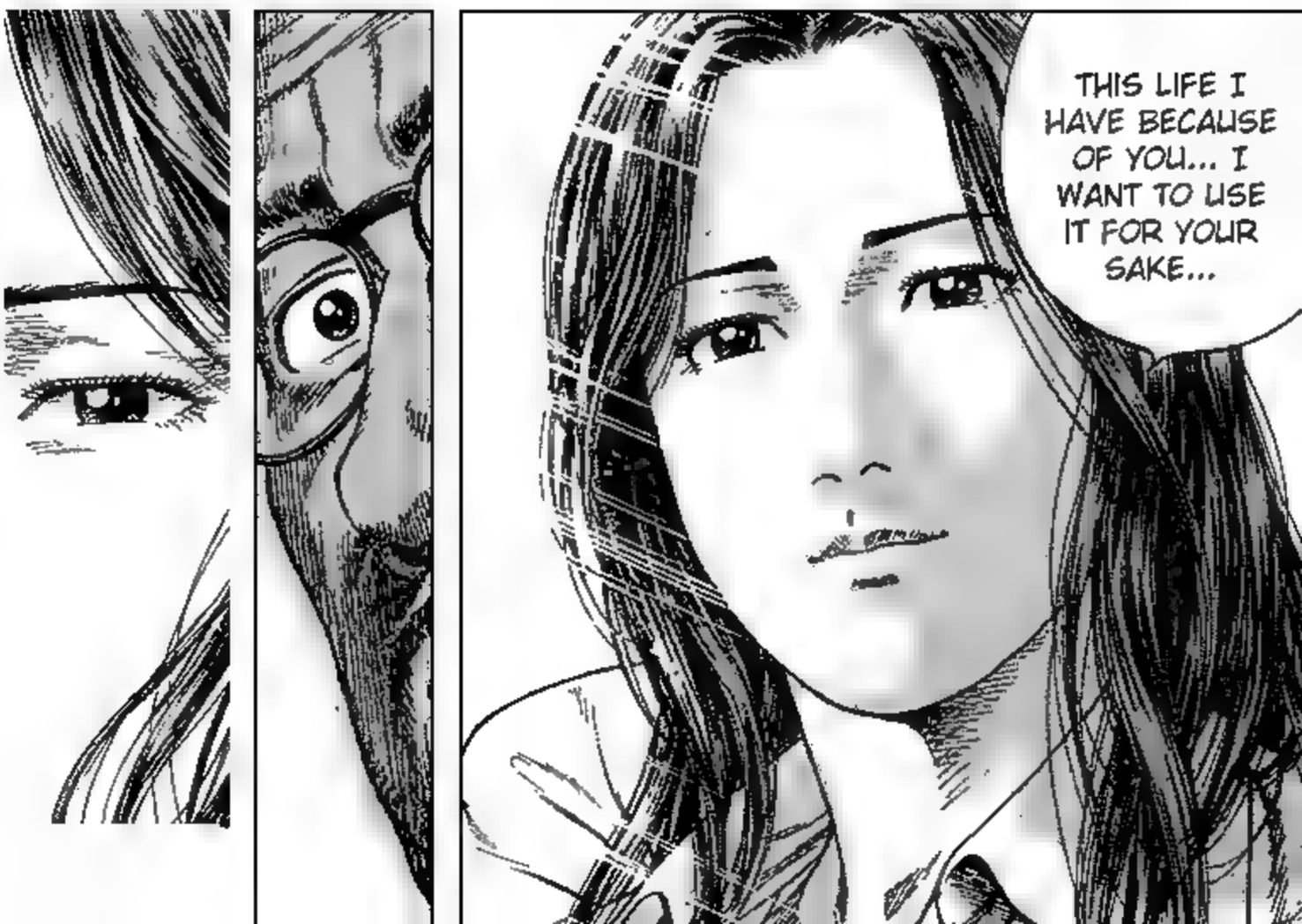

MY HEART WAS EMPTY FROM THE DEATH OF MY DAUGHTER, BUT SEEING BAI LAN COME BACK TO HEALTH IT GRADUALLY BECAME WHOLE AGAIN...
BAI LAN HAD JUST LEFT CHINA FOR WORK WHEN SHE'D SUDDENLY BEEN MUGGED, SO I TOOK HER IN WITH ME. UNTIL HER WOUNDS HEALED, THAT IS...

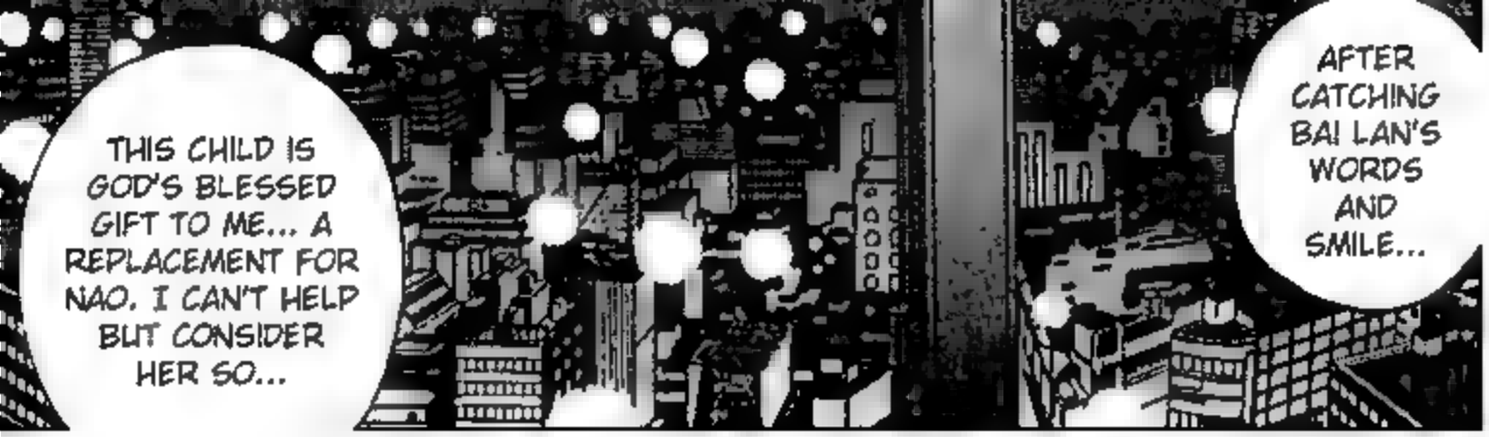

MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
WHAT IS IT?
UM ...
...
...
THIS ROOM ...
YOU SAID YOU LIVE ALONE, BUT... IT'S AS IF THIS ROOM IS...
...
SHE WAS IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT TWO YEARS AGO, YOU SEE...
USED TO BE?
THIS USED TO BE MY DAUGHTER'S ROOM...
YOU'RE GRATEFUL, HUH...
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU. I'M GRATEFUL.
AH, GOOD. YOUR APPETITE HAS RETURNED. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF BED SOON.


THE TRUTH IS...
I'M INVOLVED WITH THE YAKUZA!
...?
I'M NOT SOMEONE WHO YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO...
YOU KNOW, MISS...
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD HURRY AND GET BETTER, SO YOU CAN LEAVE THIS PLACE...
I SAVED YOU MERELY ON A WHIM. LIVING WITH A PERSON LIKE ME WILL ONLY BRING YOU MISFORTUNE...
...
THE SAME AS THE PERSON WHO STABBED YOU.
...
NO, I'M QUITE GRATEFUL!
YOUR GRATITUDE IS WASTED ON ME.

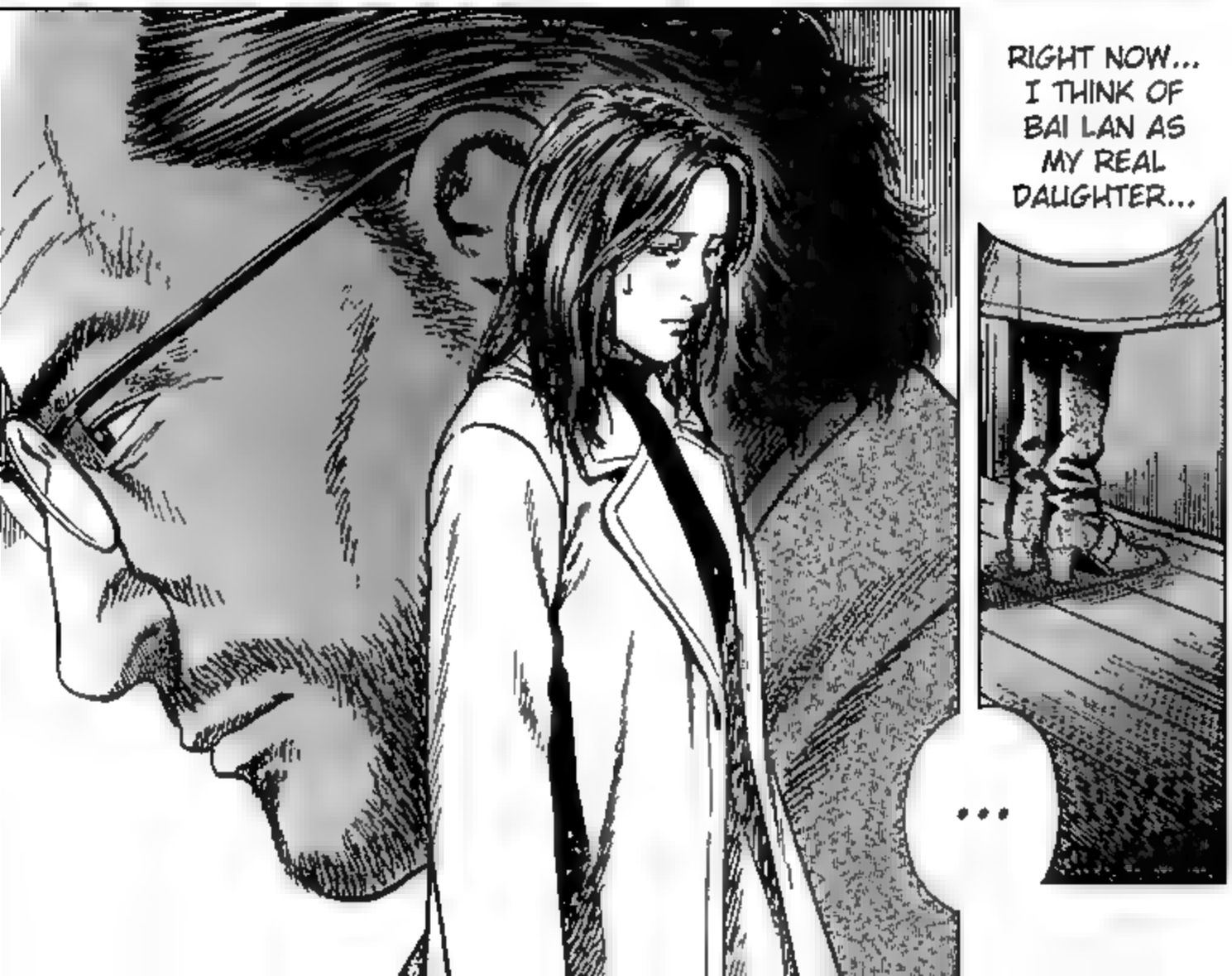

PLEASE... EVEN AFTER I RECOVER, PLEASE LET ME STAY BY YOUR SIDE, IN YOUR DAUGHTER'S PLACE...
NO, IT'S SILLY TO THINK I COULD REPLACE HER...
BAI LAN ...!


EVEN SO... IF I CAN HEAL YOUR HEART, EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE...
...


THIS LIFE I HAVE BECAUSE OF YOU... I WANT TO USE IT FOR YOUR SAKE...


THIS CHILD IS GOD'S BLESSED GIFT TO ME... A REPLACEMENT FOR NAO. I CAN'T HELP BUT CONSIDER HER SO...
AFTER CATCHING BAI LAN'S WORDS AND SMILE...


...
...
MAYBE IT WAS MY SELFISH THINKING, BUT I CAN'T LET GO OF BAI LAN ANYMORE...


RIGHT NOW... I THINK OF BAI LAN AS MY REAL DAUGHTER...
...



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Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
...
I'M...


THAT WAY...
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER... IF I'D BEEN DEAD...
Beep
I'M STILL ALIVE...?
Beep

Chapter 121 First-Time Affection

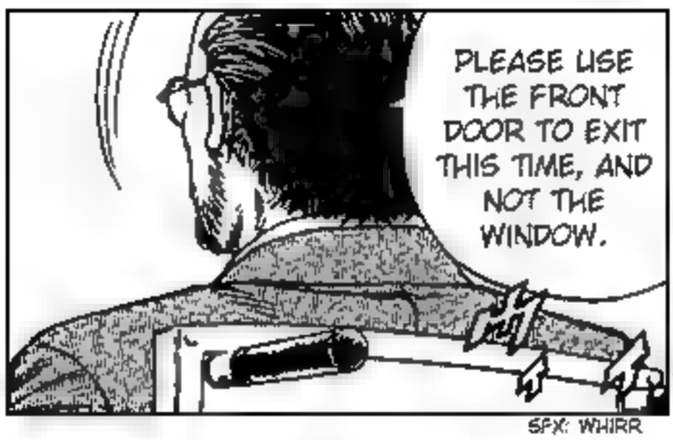



YOU CAN'T DIE!
SFX: CLASP
WHO...?
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
SFX: GASP
WELL THEN, I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE NOW.
LIVE!


BUT ...
I KNOW YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY, BUT I CAN'T LET SAEBA'S DAUGHTER GUARD ME...
...


EH...?

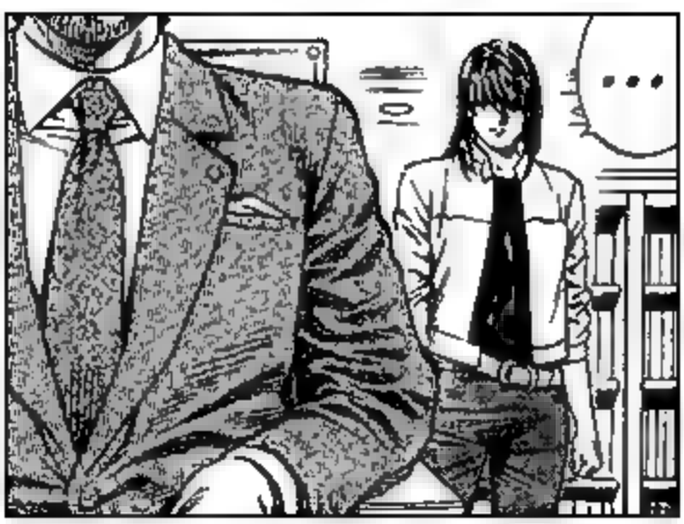



PLEASE USE THE FRONT DOOR TO EXIT THIS TIME, AND NOT THE WINDOW.


I DON'T WANT TO OWE CITY HUNTER ANY FAVORS.

SFX: WHIRR




...




IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE, I DO HAVE ONE REQUEST...
...?
AL-THOUGH ...
...
IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, WOULD YOU BE A FRIEND TO HER?
YOU AND BAI LAN ARE ABOUT THE SAME AGE...
SFX: WHIRR
...
SFX: DOOR OPENING
REQUEST ACCEPTED!
SFX: CLICK


...
...
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME WE'VE MET...
THIS IS MY THIRD TIME!
ACTU-ALLY...


...
MISS SHANIN... JUST... WHO ARE YOU?
LET ME ESCORT YOU TO THE FRONT ENTRANCE...
A LONG TIME AGO ...?
I'M JUST ONE OF SHIN-HON'S FRIENDS... FROM A LONG TIME AGO...
YOU SAID YOU WERE CITY HUNTER'S DAUGHTER, SO IN OTHER WORDS-
YOU ...

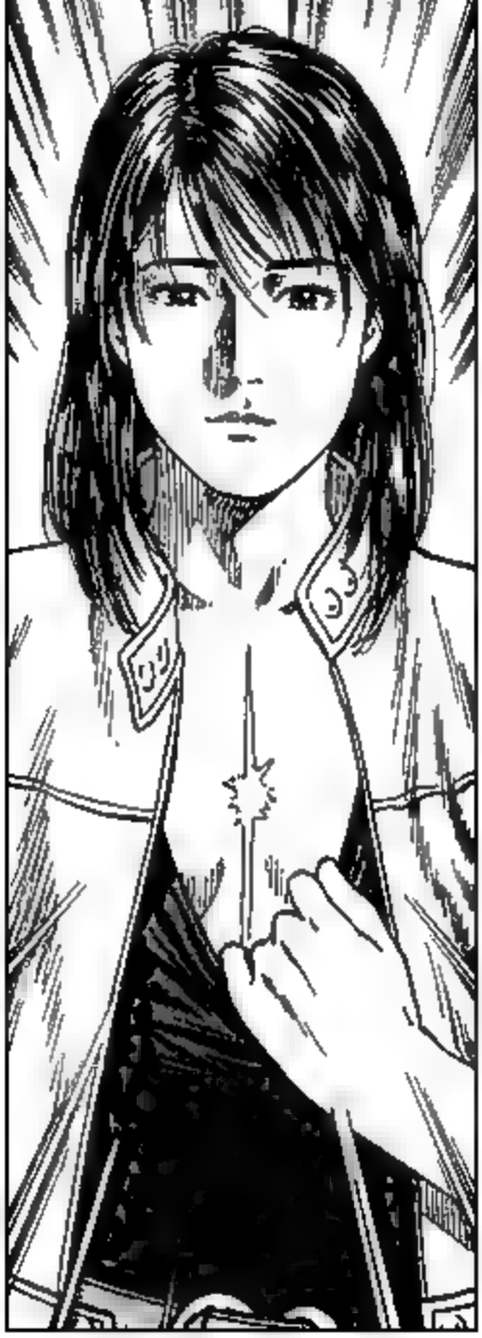

IN ORDER TO GET CLOSE TO HAYA-KAWA.
THAT STORY ABOUT GETTING MUGGED WAS A LIE. YOU STABBED YOURSELF IN THE STOMACH.
WHO... WHO ARE YOU...!?
HE TOOK YOU IN BECAUSE YOU RESEMBLE HIS DAUGHTER. YOU MADE HIM TRUST YOU LIKE HIS REAL DAUGHTER AFTER BEING SAVED FROM THE VERGE OF DEATH. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WHITE TIGER WANTS. THE ASSASSIN-ATION SEEMS TO BE PRO-GRESSING SMOOTHLY.
AND YET... YOU SHIELDED HIM WITH YOUR OWN BODY... WHY DID YOU PROTECT HIM...?


AND THEN, YOU WERE READY TO BETRAY WHITE TIGER FOR HIS SAKE. THAT'S WHY YOU GAVE YOUR TIGER EMBLEM TO SHIN-HON...
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO GET ON HAYA-KAWA'S GOOD SIDE, BUT HE ENDED UP GET-TING ON YOUR GOOD SIDE...
JUST WHO ARE YOU!?
THAT SNIPER ...
WAS... YOU...!?
GLASS HEART, OF THE VERMILION BIRD UNIT.
THEY USED TO CALL ME...


G-GLASS HEART...!
I KILLED MYSELF BECAUSE I COULDN'T STAND MURDERING PEOPLE ANYMORE.
THE ONE WHO DIED SEVERAL YEARS AGO? VERMILION BIRD'S LEGENDARY SNIPER? YOU'RE THAT..
YES. I DIED...
I WAS REBORN WITH A TRANSPLANT. A NEW ME...
BUT... I CAME BACK TO LIFE...
Bdum!


SFX: SHOCK


AH
...


SFX: WOBBLE

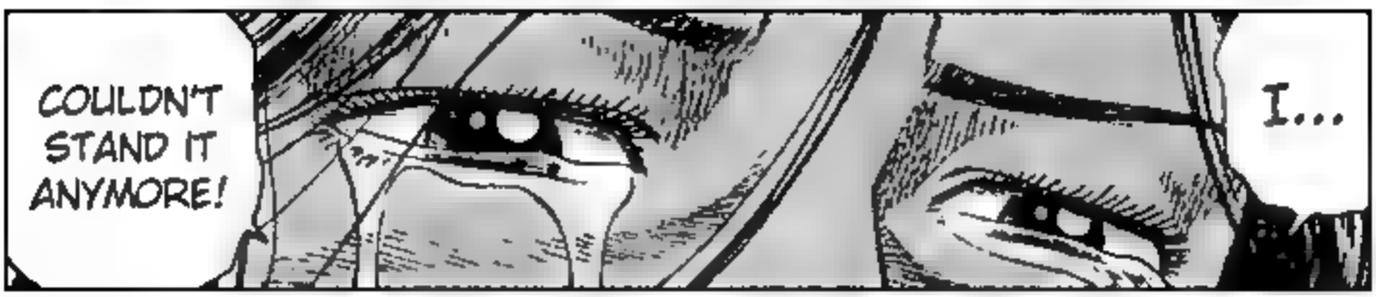

AREN'T WE...?
WE'RE THE SAME ...
SFX: SLUMP


... BAI LAN?


AH AH...


SFX: SOB


WE'RE THE SAME... I'M JUST LIKE YOU...
...

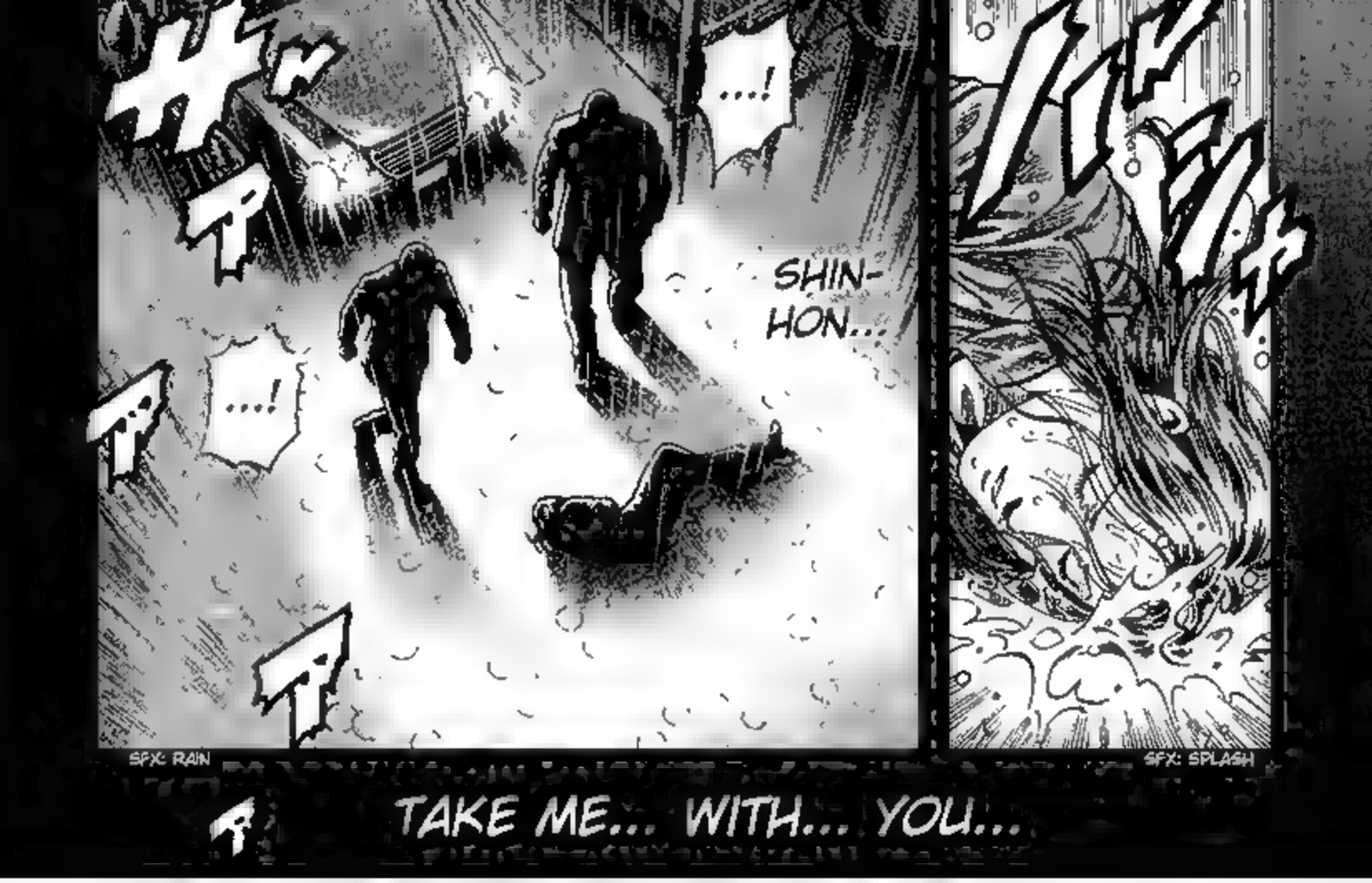

COULDN'T STAND IT ANYMORE!
I...


I THOUGHT I'D BE BETTER OFF DEAD!




THAT'S WHY... I THOUGHT ...
BAI LAN ...?


I DON'T WANT TO LIVE!
I... I WANT TO BE WITH YOU...!
HA...
I DECEIVE PEOPLE AND LEAD THEM TO THEIR DEATHS
I'M LIKE A GOD OF DEATH
HA...
SHIN-HON...
HA...
ALREADY GONE...
SHIN-HON'S
HA...

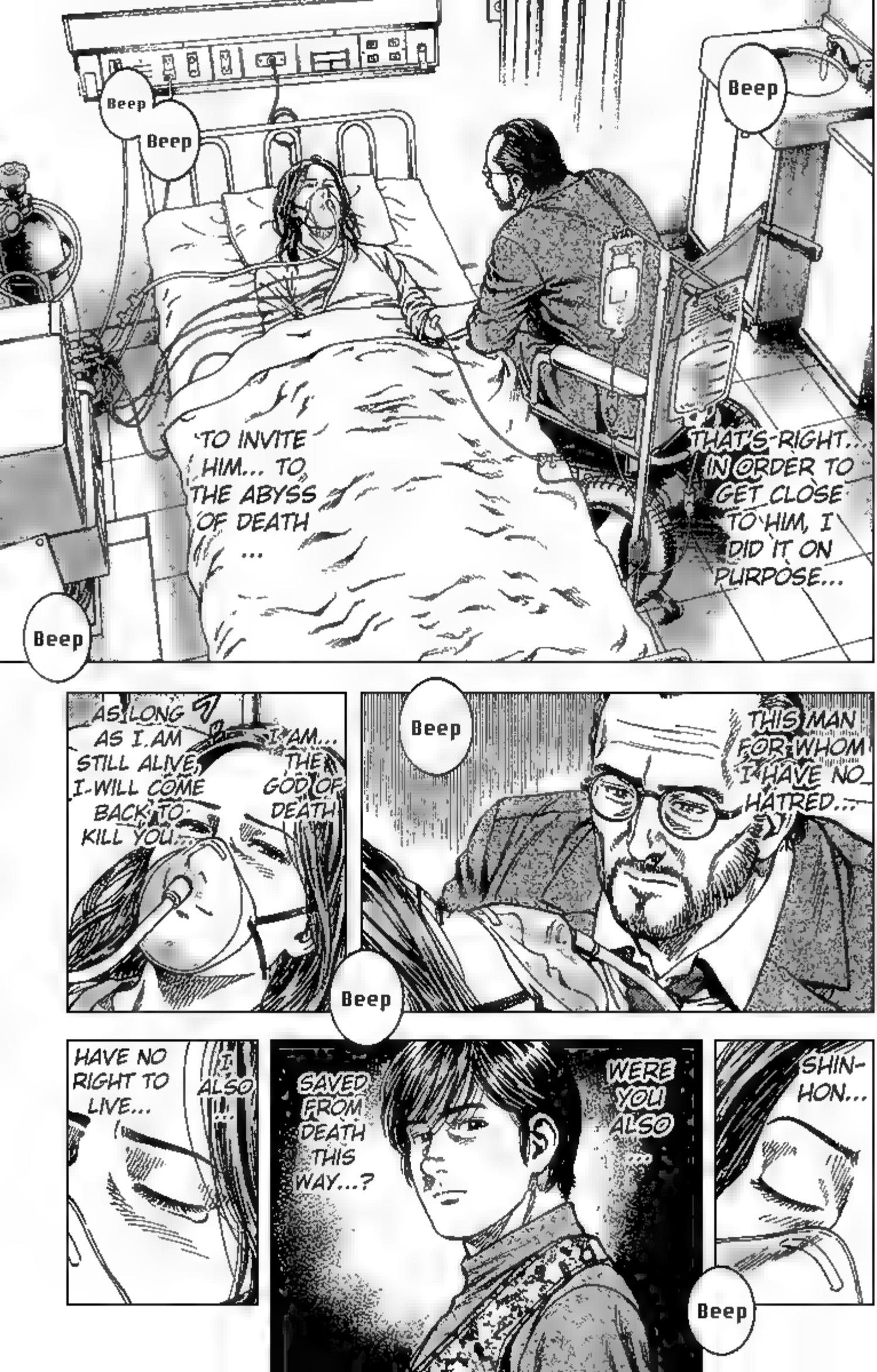


LIVE!



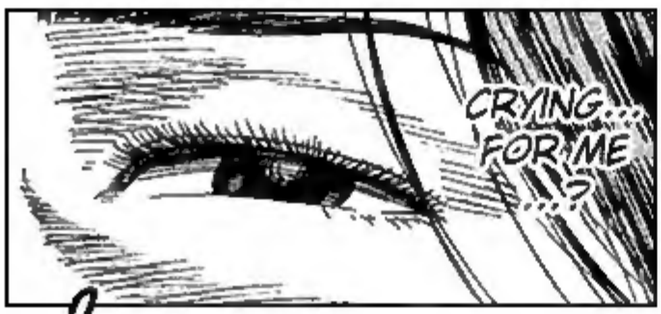





Beep
Beep
Beep
TO INVITE HIM... TO THE ABYSS OF DEATH ...
THAT'S RIGHT... IN ORDER TO GET CLOSE TO HIM, I DID IT ON PURPOSE...
Beep
AS LONG AS I AM STILL ALIVE, I WILL COME BACK TO KILL YOU...
I AM... THE GOD OF DEATH
Beep
THIS MAN FOR WHOM I HAVE NO HATRED...
Beep
HAVE NO RIGHT TO LIVE...
I ALSO !!
SAVED FROM DEATH THIS WAY...?
WERE YOU ALSO ...
SHIN-HON...
Beep


I...
SHOULD
DIE...
TOO...
I WON'T
LET YOU
DIE!
SO
PLEASE,
LIVE!
YOU CAN
HAVE MY
LIFE IN
EXCHANGE!

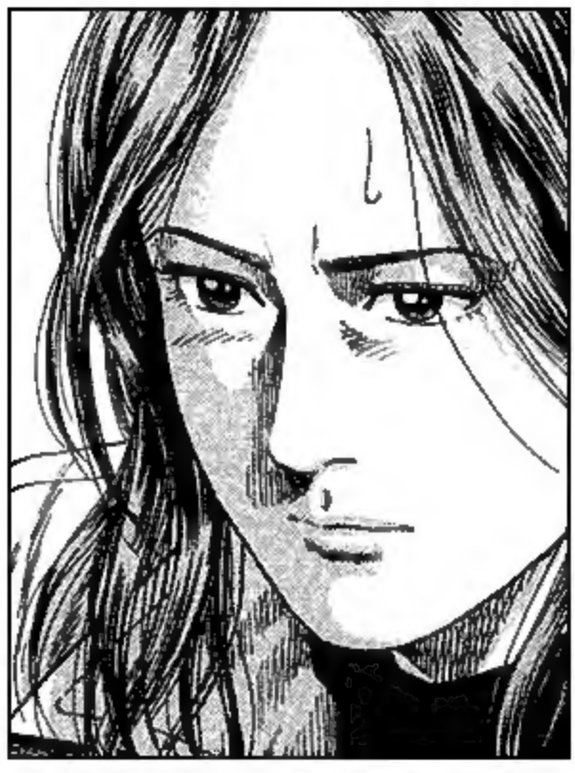

HE'S CRYING ...?


CRYING... FOR ME ...?


SFX: GRASP


PLEASE... DON'T LEAVE ME AGAIN...
SFX: SOB


SFX: SOB
End of Volume 11



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